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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19672 SUNDAY, JULY 13, 1997 • TAMUZ 8, 5757 • 8 RABIA AWWAL 1418 NIS 4.50 (Eilat NIS 3.80)

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At least a dozen weekend drownings at beaches

DAVID RUDGE and Nim

At least a dozen people drowned in swimming accidents over the weekend throughout the country — many of them at unauthorized beaches.

Two young women drowned after they went swimming off the Ksbaiot Beach on the southern access to Haifa yesterday afternoon.

It is a popular swimming site even though it is not an officially authorized beach and there are no lifeguards there.

The two women, one aged 20, from Arara village in the Triangle, and the

other, aged 18, from Kafr Kari, were reported missing and were later recovered from the sea by the Coast Guard. They were brought to the Panorama Beach, where Magen David Adom paramedics were unable to resuscitate them and a doctor pronounced them dead.

In a separate incident at the Kshatot Beach, a young man and woman also got into difficulties because of strong undercurrents. They were rescued by mounted police.

On Friday, two teenage girls from Kalansuwa village drowned while swimming in Lake Kinneret. Their

bodies were recovered from the lake after a two-hour search by police and divers.

The two, aged 13 and 16, had gone with their families to the Panorama Beach, near Tiberias. Their parents raised the alarm after they failed to return from swimming. The site is not an authorized beach and has no lifeguards.

It is reported that there is a sign at the site warning bathers against swimming, but that the sign is in Hebrew only, with no Arabic or English translations.

Four people drowned over the week-

end in the Tel Aviv area. The body of an unidentified man was found yesterday evening off Hilton Beach in Tel Aviv.

Earlier in the day, a man drowned off the nearby Charles Clore Beach. He, too, was not identified.

At noon, a police boat sailing near where the Yarkon River empties into the Mediterranean found the body of another unidentified man who had apparently drowned.

On Friday night, the body of a foreigner, aged 42, was discovered on Jerusalem Beach in Tel Aviv.

In Bat Yam, a man trying to rescue a

boy from the ocean drowned himself. The boy was reported in serious condition.

A 70-year-old man drowned off Ashkelon's Bar Kochba Beach yesterday afternoon.

A 12-year-old Palestinian boy from the Gaza Strip drowned while swimming in the ocean south of Ashkelon on Friday. An initial investigation revealed that the boy had entered Israel illegally.

A 45-year-old man drowned when swimming in a prohibited area off Ashdod on Thursday. His family reported him missing, and his body

was found on the beach and identified yesterday.

Two other people were reported missing after swimming south of Jasser a-Zarka in the Sharon region of the country.

MK Nissim Zivili (Labor) said he would submit a motion to the Knesset agenda calling for an urgent debate on the spate of drownings.

Zivili said the many tragedies required action by all the authorities — the government, the Interior Ministry, the local authorities, and an emergency committee formed to deal with drownings.

Suha Arafat intervenes in Hebron monastery dispute

HAIM SHAPIRO and JAY BUSHNISKY

The case of the New York-based Russian Orthodox Church, whose clergy were forcibly evicted by the Palestinian Police from the Abraham's Oak Monastery in Hebron, has gained a wide and varied array of advocates, including, reportedly, Suha Arafat, wife of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Others backing the expatriate church, whose representatives said they were dragged, beaten, and cursed by Palestinian policemen, include US Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado, US Rep. Benjamin Gilman of New York, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations in the US.

The PA Police handed over the monastery to the clergy of the Moscow-based Russian Orthodox Patriarchate.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Sister Anastasia Stephanopolous said that Suha Arafat, who is in Paris, had called the church several times to offer her support. Sister Anastasia is the sister of George Stephanopolous, President Bill Clinton's former White House press secretary. She is now a nun in the Russian expatriate church, serving at the Convent of Mary Magdalene in Gethsemane.

Sister Anastasia said that Suha Arafat had contacted key members of the Palestinian Authority, as well as leading religious figures, including Pope John Paul II, Jerusalem's Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I, and Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, as well as US Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk and US Consul-General in Jerusalem Edward Abington.

See SUHA, Page 2



A Palestinian crowd — including Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurie — watches two men burn an Israeli flag yesterday in Ramallah.

PA Speaker watches flag burn

By JON IMMANUEL, LIAT COLLINS, and news agencies

Cabinet secretary Danny Naveh yesterday slammed Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurie (Abu Ala) for walking over a freshly burned Israeli flag during a protest in Ramallah.

A TV camera caught Palestinian protesters burning an Israeli flag as leading Palestinian Authority and PLO officials watched. Witnesses said Qurie smiled as he watched two Palestinian men burn the flag and then stepped over its charred remains.

Naveh called the act "disgraceful" and said it angered all Israelis and Jews.

"Someone who acts this way is trampling on the chances of building peace and trust between Israel and the Palestinians," Naveh said.

Qurie, the chief Palestinian negotiator of the 1993 Oslo Declaration of Principles, said he is not in favor of flag-burning, but the Israeli government has to know that when they talk about peace "our problem is not the airport, the seaport, or safe passages, it is the land. This is the reason for peace... They are putting the Palestinian Authority in a corner and it will not be able to control the situation."

"Some youngsters burned the Israeli flag, but the people who did that burned it as a symbol of the Israeli occupation, not as the national symbol of Israel," said Suleiman Najjab, a PLO executive committee member, who was walking with his armed linked to that of Qurie at the head of a procession of more than 500.

"If it was up to me I would not do it, but the most important thing is that the Palestinian Authority and the opposition marched together against settlements," Najjab said.

Najjab, a leader of the Palestinian

Communist Party, who accepted a two-state solution 50 years ago, warned of continuing protests, adding, "but I don't know which form they will take."

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak issued a statement saying he considers the incident "shameful, unnecessary, and infuriating. There is no doubt that this act does not further the peace process." Barak called on the PA and other elements in the Arab world to condemn the act.

"Sometime whip Eliezer Zandberg described the incident as 'serious.' He called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to boycott Qurie in everything related to formal contacts with Israel. He also asked Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to examine what legal steps could be taken against Qurie, including rescinding his VIP card.

"One can't just let this go silently," Zandberg said.

"Someone who stamps on the flag today will not hesitate, later, to trample on the state," he added.

Modet Party leader Rehavam Ze'evi made a similar call to ban Qurie from entering Israel, to withdraw his VIP card, and to try him for an act of contempt against the flag.

Yisrael Ba'aliya whip Roman Bronfman said: "Palestinian extremism must lead to a breakthrough. You can't talk about peace and act as if there were a war."

Palestinians from all the different political factions joined in the Ramallah rally. Protesters called for Israel to stop its expansion of settlements and held signs demanding the US "stop supporting the Israeli occupation."

"This is a message to the Israelis to let them know there can be no peace with settlements and that the Palestinian people have other choices," Qurie told Reuters at the demonstration.

Rioting at Rachel's Tomb and in Hebron; over 30 hurt

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and JON IMMANUEL

Two border policemen were lightly wounded during rioting in Hebron on Friday, and according to Palestinian sources, 30 Palestinians were hurt in the last two days of clashes with IDF soldiers.

Palestinians protesters — mostly youths — threw firebombs, pipe bombs, stones, and bottles of acid at IDF troops and border policemen. Clashes also were reported near Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem on Friday afternoon.

Visiting Hebron on Friday morning, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan charged the

Palestinian Authority was not doing enough to prevent the riots in Hebron and the attacks that took place in Judea and Samaria last week.

"The sense of security by the Jewish community in Hebron has worsened due to the continual rioting, but we refuse to accept this as normal," he told reporters.

On Wednesday night shots were fired at Beit Hadassah in Hebron, with at least two bullets penetrating the building. Angry settlers demanded that the IDF take a firmer stand to ensure the safety of the Hebron Jewish community.

Dayan recalled the roadside bomb that exploded near a Border

Police jeep accompanying yeshiva students from the Od Yosef Chai yeshiva at Joseph's Tomb outside Nablus on Wednesday night; the shots fired at a Border Police jeep near Bethlehem; and two firebombs thrown at an army base near Beit El on Friday morning. No one was hurt in the last incident.

Dayan warned that if the riots continued in Hebron the daily life of residents would be disrupted and the town would suffer economically.

On Friday morning scores of Palestinian youths hurled firebombs and stones at IDF troops and border policemen in the casbah and Shalishah Road, the site that

divides the Palestinian-controlled section from the area under Israeli control. Two pipe bombs were thrown at IDF troops in the casbah area during the day.

The IDF ordered storekeepers in the area to close their shops. By closing the shops, the soldiers are assured greater security when they take up positions against the protesters down the road.

Settlers claimed that on Friday afternoon Palestinian Police armed with Kalashnikov rifles were patrolling in Kikar Hashoter, stressing that this was a violation of the Hebron agreement.

See HEBRON, Page 2

Sharon: PM knows where to find me

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's aides are working on an agreement between the prime minister and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, coalition sources said. They also are said to be planning to diffuse the internal opposition in the Likud by isolating MKs Dan Meridor and Ze'ev Begin.

Netanyahu is anxious to appease Sharon, who is still furious over being passed over for the finance minister's post, coalition sources said yesterday.

Netanyahu hopes to reach an agreement with Sharon at the

beginning of this week, to prevent the disgruntled minister from attacking Netanyahu or the government in the next few weeks.

The sources said another crisis with Sharon is expected to be over the second pullback, the debate on which is scheduled for September or October.

Following reports last week that Sharon had refused to meet the prime minister and that he could not be reached, Sharon said yesterday, "The prime minister has no problem finding me."

Sharon's office said there had been no call or contact from the Prime Minister's Office on Thursday or Friday. "The prime minister has ways of finding Sharon at any moment, whether by mobile phone or regular phone," his office's statement said.

Likud sources said over the weekend that in addition to an agreement with Sharon,

Netanyahu's bureau is formulating various offers to the rebel Likud MKs to prevent them from criticizing or voting against the government. For instance, more efforts will be made to persuade MK David Magen (Gesher) to take the post of coalition chairman, which he has refused once, and MK Uzi Landau will be invited to more consultations with Netanyahu.

The purpose of this plan is to prevent Likud malcontents from gathering around Meridor and Begin, who are perceived as the moral backbone and hard core of the opposition to Netanyahu. Meridor and Begin themselves will not be offered anything, as it is known they cannot be bought, the sources said.

The plan is intended to make Meridor and Begin feel so isolated in the Likud that they will be pushed to resign from the party, the sources said.

IN THE DEVOTED FRIENDS AND STAUNCH SUPPORTERS

RUTH AND JACK WEXLER

Guests of Honor at the Graduation of 51 students of Migdal Ohr High School and Bar Mitzva of 150 members of the Migdal Ohr National Youth Program

Welcome to their daughter, Ann Fromer and granddaughter, Yvette

Rabbi Yitzchok D. Grossman, Dean the staff, and the thousands of students of the Migdal Ohr Institutions Migdal Ha'emek



NEWS

in brief

Two die in ultra-light plane crash

Two moshav residents from the Arava were killed yesterday when their ultra-light plane crashed in a wadi south of Hatzeva.

Barak to meet Mubarak

Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak is to meet on Tuesday in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Plans proceeding for Qatar economic parley

The US will be sending a delegation to London next week, led by deputy assistant secretary of state Toni Verstandig, to plan meetings with Qatari officials on the regional economic conference to be held in November in Doha.

"We continue to work quite actively with the Qataris on the logistical and other arrangements," the US official said.

Syrian religious head urges boycott of US goods

Syria's chief Islamic scholar has urged Arabs and Moslems to boycott American and Israeli goods.

Kiftaro said Arabs and Moslems should refuse to buy American and Israeli products and stop putting money in banks in countries that support Israel.

HEBRON

Continued from Page 1

During Friday, leaders from the Hebron Jewish community and Kiryat Arba met to discuss the security situation, declaring they would gather outside Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's office in Jerusalem this morning to protest the escalation of violence in the area.

IDF soldiers dispersed rioters near Rachel's Tomb on Friday with rubber bullets and gas pellets.

Yesterday rioting broke out again in Hebron's casbah area and Shallalah Road.

IDF troops yesterday again made Palestinian storekeepers close their shops and reportedly detained several owners who refused to comply.

Palestinians claim one of the detainees, a butcher, had asked to stay open until a bridegroom who had ordered meat for his wedding came to pick it up.

"This is collective punishment," said Noah Abu Munshar, who owns a hardware store and was not among those detained.

IDF soldiers also took over the rooftop of a private home that looks out over the site where the rioting takes place.

The IDF Spokesman said yesterday that soldiers and border policemen fired rubber bullets and gas pellets to disperse the rioters both Friday and yesterday.

On Friday, a small group of settlers gathered opposite rioting Palestinians and proceeded to throw stones and curse the rioters.

Palestinians said 10 were wounded yesterday and 20 wounded Friday.

SUHA

Continued from Page 1

"She herself is a Christian and she felt it was the wrong way to act. She heard the religious communities were upset," Sister Anastasia said.

Sister Anka, of the Bethany Community of the Resurrection of Christ, also said Arafat contacted "numerous key members of the PA."

In other activity on behalf of the expatriate church, Sen. Campbell proposed an amendment to an aid bill for the Palestinians, stipulating that the aid be withheld until the monastery is returned.

Rep. Gilman wrote a letter of protest to US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, calling for a State Department investigation of the incident.

The government has also denounced the forced transfer of the monastery as a violation of the Oslo Accords.

Moslems, and Samaritans." Gilman charged that "this episode should be included among violations reported in the State Department's PLO Commitment Compliance Report required under the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act."

In Jerusalem on Friday, a delegation from abroad, including an archbishop from Munich and a bishop from San Francisco, met with David Bar-Ilan, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's communications director.

The government has also denounced the forced transfer of the monastery as a violation of the Oslo Accords.

As for everyone else, Netanyahu serves promises and written agreements which only a fool would believe, Marcus says.

"Bibi lies to everyone, everyone knows he lies to them and he knows they know. But these are the rules of the game. This is how he maintains them and bow they maintain him."

Nahum Barnea of Yediot Aharonot says Netanyahu has one proven medicine for mollifying ministers who get angry.

"MK Shaul Amor, for instance, has been living on a telephone diet for an entire year, until he exploded," he writes.

IDF fears reprisals after Lebanese civilian killed

By DAVID RUDGE

Tension remained high in south Lebanon following an incident early yesterday morning in which a local resident was killed by mistake by IDF troops.

Reports from Lebanon said the Lebanese government intended to submit a complaint to the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group over the incident.

Hizbullah recently fired Katyusha rockets and mortar rounds at IDF positions along Israel's northern border in what it said was retaliation for the wounding of Lebanese civilians by IDF gunfire.

Lebanese observers said it was not clear whether the organization would react to the latest incident.

since the man killed was a resident of the security zone.

The IDF expressed regrets over the shooting which occurred near Adshit al-Kasayr, north of Kantara village, in the eastern sector of the security zone.

Military sources said the man had been seen moving in suspicious circumstances in an area where it's known that only terrorists operate, especially at that time of the night.

The sources said an initial inquiry by the IDF commander of the region had found that the troops had acted according to regulations.

Reports from Lebanon said the man, aged 70, was a farmer who had left his home in the village to gather grass for his cattle.

According to the reports he was in fields, about 200 meters from the edge of village at around 4:30 am, when an IDF tank fired several rounds at him, some of them apparently flechette shells filled with metal darts.

Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said at a rally in south Beirut last Thursday that the recent rocket and mortar attacks were a warning to Israel following earlier incidents in which Lebanese civilians were wounded as a result of IDF shelling.

He said it was a reminder to residents of northern Israel to "hear once again the echo, noise and roar of Katyusha rockets near to them."

Nasrallah and other leading

Hizbullah officials have expressed criticism recently of the monitoring group that was established to supervise the understandings reached at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath last April.

The organization's leaders have accused the monitoring group of not doing enough to protect Lebanese civilians. Nevertheless, the five-nation committee has succeeded so far in acting as a safety valve in times of tension and thereby helping to prevent a recurrence of cross-border bombardments.

Fighting, however, continued in the security zone over the weekend with long-range mortar attacks on IDF and South Lebanese Army positions in the western and eastern sectors. There were no casualties and IDF gun-

ners returned fire. Meanwhile, OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine and the IDF's commander in Lebanon Brig.-Gen. Eli Amitai visited the SLA-controlled Jezzine enclave north of the zone on Thursday to review the situation in the region.

They met with SLA officers in the Christian township as well as local dignitaries and expressed their condolences over the casualties suffered by residents and SLA members recently in Hizbullah attacks.

Levine vowed that the IDF would continue to hit terrorists wherever they were. Amitai said the army would continue to support and protect residents and soldiers loyal to SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad.

Levy said conditioning appointments on Inbar's Russia posting

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Dore Gold will probably have to wait another few days before the Foreign Ministry submits his nomination as UN ambassador to the cabinet for approval, sources said yesterday.

The reason for this delay and the concurrent hold-up of all the other pending ambassadorial and consular nominations is evidently Foreign Minister David Levy's insistence that the appointments be treated as a package deal.

This would include approving the Foreign Ministry's director-general for Latin American affairs, Herzl Inbar, as envoy to Russia, a choice opposed by Yisrael Ba'aliya.

Yisrael Ba'aliya wants the incumbent ambassador to Ukraine, Zvi Magen, to be sent to Moscow. It also insists that all diplomatic appointments to the former Soviet republics be cleared with its ministers.

The sources predicted the dispute over Inbar's candidacy will be ironed out early this week and the cabinet approval of all the appointments will be obtained through a telephone poll of its members.

However, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Danny Shek said he was unaware of any decision to postpone the cabinet's deliberations on these diplomatic appointments and expected them to be approved today.

Israel has not had a UN ambassador for the past 15 months, and will still not have one when the General Assembly debates the PLO's protest against the Har Homa housing project on Tuesday.



Scoring big Former NBA superstar Kareem Abdul-Jabbar makes a hit as he gives out caps to child patients at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem on Friday.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

MICHAEL FUEDELMAN

It's not for the telephone The government's malfunctions were the focus of the weekend media, which also explored Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's formula for dealing with the breakdowns and buying his government time until the next crisis.

Once again it has been proved that one of Netanyahu's secrets of power and survival is his vulnerability to extortion, writes Ha'aretz's Yoel Marcus. As one familiar with political manipulation, Marcus says, Netanyahu has two ways of surrendering - one real and the other false.

"With [Tzabi] Haneghi, for instance, he doesn't play around. With [Aryeh] Deri, either," notes Marcus. He also points out that Netanyahu's fear of Geshet is not because of Foreign Minister David Levy but because of Likud strongman David Appel. For it is Appel, Deri, Haneghi and Avigdor Lieberman who "hold the key to the 'black box,' whose mysterious disappearance was the cause for the attorney-general's refraining from indicting Netanyahu in the Bar-On Affair."

As for everyone else, Netanyahu serves promises and written agreements which only a fool would believe, Marcus says.

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Nahum Barnea of Yediot Aharonot says Netanyahu has one proven medicine for mollifying ministers who get angry.

"MK Shaul Amor, for instance, has been living on a telephone diet for an entire year, until he exploded," he writes.

In what reads like a comic script, Barnea quotes some of these calls more or less verbatim. For example, this is a call to National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

Sharon: "Arik, I want to consult with you." Sharon: "I'm at your disposal, Prime Minister."

PM: "Are you on a regular phone or a mobile one?" Sharon: "I'm on mobile."

PM: "That's not good. When will you be on a regular phone?" Sharon: "In two hours' time."

PM: "I'll catch you in two hours."

Four hours later: PM: "Arik, now we can talk."

Sharon: "Go ahead."

PM: "Are you on a regular phone or on a mobile?" Sharon: "I'm on a regular phone."

PM: "But now I'm on a mobile phone."

Sharon: "Mmmmm."

PM: "Well, let's talk later, when I'm on a regular phone."

Sharon: "Certainly."

Two hours later, when the crisis with Sharon is at its height: Sharon (lukewarm to cool): "Nothing new."

PM: "Are you on a line phone or wireless phone?" Sharon: "Line phone."

PM: "Me too. Very good. Listen, I thought we should sit and talk. What I want to say to you, is not for the telephone."

Calls along similar lines are held to others, like Levy. After every such call, says Barnea, the radio news flashes report, on the basis of statements from their sources, that the prime minister has discussed state issues with Sharon. This makes the prime minister

happy, writes Barnea. Not only has he kept Sharon at bay for a whole day, he has also created the impression in the media that he has been holding feverish consultations on state and security affairs.

What is even better, is that by all this he managed to upset Levy and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Sharon's revenge Ma'ariv's Ben Caspit writes about the agreements which ended the crisis.

"You have to rub your eyes to read the astounding, unprecedented 'work contract' signed this week between Netanyahu and Levy...but the Netanyahu-Levy-Mordechai triangle never rested on a shakier basis, and don't forget that in the corner waits Sharon, who doesn't forgive and doesn't forget."

Sharon doesn't like to be made a fool of, says Caspit, referring to Sharon's being the last to know that he was not to be appointed finance minister. For all his being an experienced, wily political fox, Sharon found himself this week in the role of the cuckolded husband whom everyone is talking about behind his back.

Sara's sizzling cassette It was only a matter of time until the videocassette of Sara Netanyahu's outburst during the interview with Channel 1's Yael Dan, would "leak" to the press.

Sure enough, Yediot Tikshoret's Tel Aviv weekly got hold of the original, uncensored interview.

The original cassette, states Yuval Natan, proves that Sara Netanyahu did not stop the scandalous interview or walk off the set, so that everything she said was part of the official interview, in contrast to the television directors' argument that since the outburst was not part of the interview it should not be broadcast.

The censored interview, which Natan calls the "public relations version," portrayed a false image of Netanyahu, which is the exact opposite of her personality.

One new detail in the original version is Netanyahu's fingering of Consul-General Colette Avital as the one former Labor leader Shimon Peres "goes to" when he's in New York. The context was the questions about the prime minister's marital infidelity and his wife accusing all men of being unfaithful.

"Do you know how many married men started up with me when I was an El Al hostess, some of whom are also in the Knesset today? Don't you think I understand there isn't a married man who doesn't do these things and worse? What about Peres, when he goes to Colette Avital when he's in New York? Do you want to start talking about all that?"

Milo: Labor better for slums Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo (Likud) announced he will consider running for prime minister "under the right circumstances."

In an interview with Tel Aviv Milo charges the present government with cutting funds earmarked for poor neighborhoods and transferring the money instead to housing for other purposes.

"In this case, [Deputy Housing Minister Meir] Porush purposes, i.e. housing for bareid families."

"The Labor government did much more for the rehabilitation of slums," Milo tells Yakir Elkavir and Motti Danos, noting that certain projects, like renovating the Hatikva quarter's Ezzal Street, were cut off in the middle.

"With the former government it was much more pleasant to work. The housing minister was Binyamin Ben-Eliezer. All we needed vis-a-vis slum rehabilitation, he'd say, go ahead. Run with it," Milo said.

Israeli Arab group to visit Hebron in protest over pig leaflet

By DAVID RUDGE

A delegation of Israeli Arabs representing a cross section of the community is to visit Hebron today as part of ongoing protests against the leaflets depicting Mohammed as a pig writing the Koran.

The delegation, including Arab MKs and council heads, is scheduled to meet with Hebron Mayor Mustafa Nanshe and representatives of the Palestinian Authority in the city.

"This will be a visit of solidarity with the Palestinians in Hebron, against the continuation of [Jewish] settlement and in protest over the leaflet, which is an incitement against Islam," said Abed Ibitawi, director-general of the Israeli-Arab leadership's monitoring committee.

The delegation is to be headed by Ibrahim Nimr Hussein, chairman of the monitoring committee, and mayor of Shfar'am.

On a separate issue, the monitoring committee is pressing the government to cease what it describes as a new policy of demolishing homes in the Arab sector which were built without planning or building permits.

The committee, composed of Arab MKs, council heads, and leading public figures, has written to Interior Minister Eli Suissa and Union of Local Authorities chairman Adi Eldor about the problem.

"This is the most burning issue in the Arab sector at the moment. We are demanding that the amount of land under the jurisdiction of Arab councils and municipalities be increased to enable development, especially the construction of new homes, in the villages and towns. This is one of the main reasons for the so-called illegal building," Ibitawi said.

The committee also is demanding greater representation on local and regional planning and building commissions, especially in Caitee.

According to the Interior Ministry spokesman, the policy against illegal building is the same for Jews and Arabs, although the problem is more acute in the Arab sector.

She said many of the Arab municipalities and councils did not have development plans, and that they generally are opposed to high-rise building.

King Hussein despairs for peace process

Jordan's King Hussein expressed despair over the breakdown in Palestinian-Israeli peace talks and halted the Israeli government.

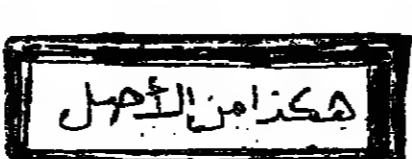
"I really am despairing more and more about the situation as time goes by," he told the British Broadcasting Corporation in an interview shown on Jordan Television on Thursday night.

"Prime Minister [Binyamin] Netanyahu is a person who will be judged in time...I gave him all the support I could initially...he was the choice of the Israeli people for the post of prime minister of Israel."

"But I must admit I'm very disappointed in the performance as a whole of Israel and its government and leadership in the present and recent past. I really hope we'll see improvement before it is too late."

Asked about the tone of talks with Netanyahu when they met, the king said they were always good-natured. "But then what happens afterwards is a cause of concern and confusion," he said. "We talk openly. We seem to have the same view. But then things don't seem to continue in a path that you could recognize or identify with what you have spoken about."

Municipality of Beer-Sheva. On completion of the Shloshim (30 day mourning period) of the passing of YITZHACK (IJO) RAGER Mayor of Beer-Sheva, the memorial service and unveiling of the stone will be held on Tuesday, the 10th of Tammuz, 5757, July 15th, 1997 at 17:30 (5:30 p.m.) at the Old Cemetery in Beer-Sheva.



NATO threat draws Serb leaders together

By JOYANA GEC

PALE. Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) - Feuding Bosnian Serb leaders yesterday tried to end their power struggle, anxious to show unity after NATO's daring pounce on two war crimes suspects and the threat of similar actions in the future.

A bitter row has split Bosnian Serb leaders for the past two weeks, after Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic accused wartime leader Radovan Karadzic of amassing vast wealth by smuggling alcohol, gasoline and cigarettes during and after the war in Bosnia.

The issue for power is overshadowed by Thursday's killing of one Bosnian Serb indicted by The Hague's war crimes tribunal and the arrest of another by British troops in the northern Bosnia town of Prijedor.

Yesterday, Karadzic's chief ally, Momcilo Krajisnik, went to Plavsic's stronghold of Banja Luka, ostensibly to celebrate an important Serb religious holiday, but also to hold talks.

"We will do everything to find a solution to the problem" with Plavsic, Krajisnik said. "We have many opponents. There are many who want to destroy the Bosnian Serb republic, and we have to be aware of that."

Anyone who blocked compromise "would carry a heavy moral burden" for all Serbs, he said, in clear warning to Plavsic to end her fight against Karadzic.

Only three days earlier, Krajisnik had refused to visit Banja Luka. But the Karadzic camp now is using the threat of more NATO action against Serbs to try and force Plavsic back into line.

Plavsic vowed after Thursday's raid that she would not stop "action against crimes" by fellow leaders.

Karadzic, acting from behind the scenes, has mounted an all-out attack. Media and the ruling Serb Democratic Party constantly accuse Plavsic of betraying Serb interests and opening the crisis that led to Thursday's arrest and killing.

The dead man, Simo Drijaca, was the former police chief of Prijedor, one of the centers of hor-

rific camps for non-Serbs in 1992. Already, thousands of Serbs have taken part in candlelight vigils for Drijaca in Prijedor and Banja Luka. Prijedor hospital chief Milan Kovacevic, meanwhile, awaits trial by the UN tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

Security has been increased around Serb leaders, who have decided not to travel outside Serb-held territory to meet with international officials.

Although he is not known to be wanted by the tribunal, Krajisnik refused Friday to attend a meeting in Sarajevo of the country's three-member presidency and top international envoys.

A Western diplomat said he cited security concerns. The meeting was moved to the Serb stronghold of Pale instead.

Krajisnik complained the NATO peace force had "overstepped its authority" and "annulled the good cooperation we have had." But, for now, he urged Serbs to show restraint.

He expressed concern over "secret, private lists" of indicted



Bosnian Serb leaders, including President Biljana Plavsic (right) and Momcilo Krajisnik (left), an aide to former president Radovan Karadzic, cross themselves during a St. Peter's Day celebration in Banja Luka, Bosnia, yesterday.

war crimes suspects.

Karadzic — who has been indicted twice by the UN tribunal — has installed extra security at his Pale headquarters.

Townpeople say he has sur-

rounded his house with land mines.

Karadzic also sleeps in different places to avoid nighttime raids, they said.

The commander of the NATO-led peace force, US Gen.

William Crouch, denied the force's mandate had changed and said his troops would continue to detain any indicted war crimes suspect they encounter.

President Clinton, traveling in

Europe, acknowledged however that NATO was newly determined to enforce the Dayton peace accord, and that the move against war crimes suspects was part of that.

fter lled
Israeli Arab group to visit Hebron in protest over pig leaflet
By DAVID RIDGE

Yilmaz confirmed as Turkish PM

ANKARA (AP) — A pro-Western coalition won a vote of confidence in parliament yesterday after replacing modern Turkey's first Islamist government.

The vote was 281-256 in a stormy session that included a fist-fight. Two deputies in the 550-seat parliament abstained and the rest didn't show up.

Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz replaced Necmettin Erbakan, leader of the Islamic Welfare Party. Erbakan lasted a year in office, angering many secularists in this NATO country with his efforts to increase the Islamic tenor of life here. "This vote of confidence showed once again that parliament rules over the destiny of the nation," Yilmaz said.

Yilmaz's remarks were in response to allegations of the pro-secular military, which effectively forced Erbakan out of office, played a role in helping him to form a government.

Yilmaz says a priority of his foreign policy will be Turkey's campaign to become a full member of the European Union. His government also has pledged to curb Islamic education and fight corruption.

A brawl between social democ-

rat and Welfare deputies interrupted the vote for 15 minutes. The fight was touched off when a social democrat raised a banner insulting a Welfare legislator.

Erbakan resigned last month amid coup rumors and under intense military pressure.

"A new era starts in Turkey today," Yilmaz said. "This government's path will be the path of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk." Ataturk adopted secular laws and reforms to integrate this predominantly Moslem nation into the Western world.

Yilmaz allied his center-right Motherland Party with former premier Bulent Ecevit's Democratic Left Party and a small center-right party. He also received the outside support of another social democrat party and independents.

But what insured victory for Yilmaz was support from defectors from former premier Tansu Ciller's True Path Party. Dozens of True Path deputies resigned to protest her alliance with Erbakan.

Ciller's future appears in trouble. She and Yilmaz are bitter rivals, and he is expected to prosecute her on corruption charges. Erbakan's support in the past had shielded her from parliamentary probes.

44 missing in Cuba air crash

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Cuban ships and planes searched the Caribbean yesterday for a Cuban airliner that crashed into the water with 44 people aboard, including eight foreigners.

Cubana de Aviacion Flight 787 crashed Friday about three minutes after takeoff from Santiago de Cuba en route to Havana.

The airline said 39 passengers and a crew of five were on board the Russian-made aircraft. Neither the plane nor any of the people on board had been found.

The nationalities of the foreign passengers was not immediately known. The Spanish Foreign Ministry said some passengers were from Spain and Brazil.

Spanish Consul Eduardo Cerro left Havana for Santiago early yesterday to check unconfirmed reports that six Spaniards — four men and two women — were on board the plane.

Authorities in Santiago de Cuba mobilized military and civil defense forces to search for survivors.

The plane, an AN-24, which can carry about 50 people, has been out of production since 1978.

Fewer than 10 people waited at Havana's international airport before dawn yesterday for word about the search. Others arrived earlier and left. Officials at the airport refused to speak to reporters.

Santiago de Cuba is about 800 kilometers southeast of Havana.

Anne Frank legal row decided

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The Swiss supreme court ruled in favor of the Dutch operator of the Anne Frank museum in a trademark dispute with a Switzerland-based competitor.

The ruling of the Federal Tribunal, published Friday, rejected the claim of the Anne Frank Funds of Basel, which had asserted that the name of the teenage Holocaust victim risked being commercialized.

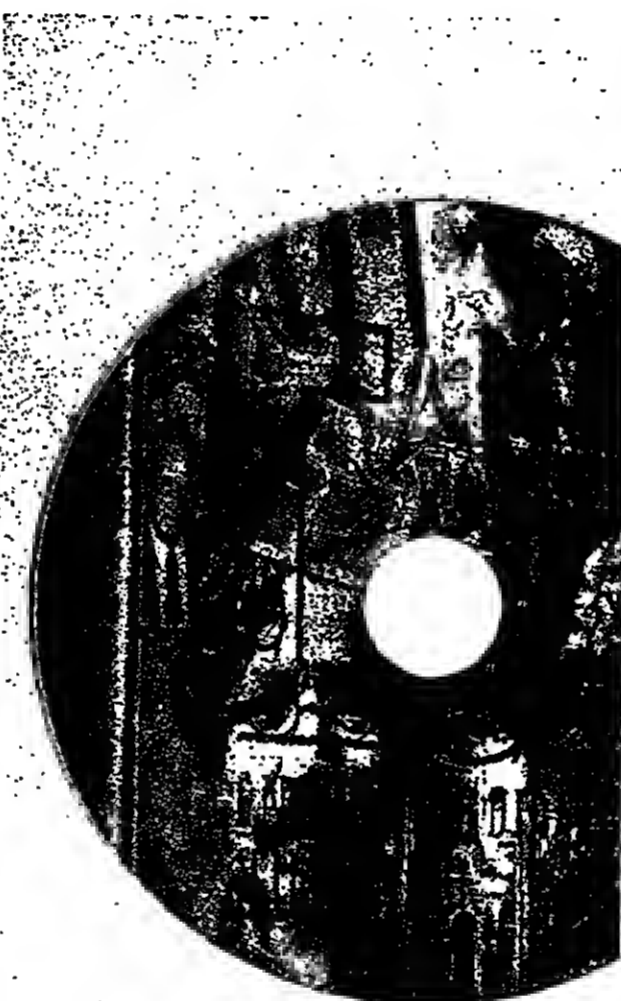
The ruling extended to Switzerland the trademark rights to the girl's name that the Anne Frank Foundation has owned elsewhere in Europe since the 1980s.

Both organizations were created with the blessing of Anne Frank's father, Otto Frank, who survived the Holocaust.

The tribunal rejected the funds' claim to better rights to the name in Switzerland.

The foundation operates a museum in the house where Anne wrote her diary about how her family lived in hiding in Amsterdam from the Nazis for two years. They were betrayed in 1944 and sent to extermination camps.

Vincent Steiner, president of the Swiss-based funds, argued that the foundation was considering using the trademark for souvenirs like T-shirts, pens and stationery. The foundation has denied it has any such plans.



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Basque terror group kills kidnapped Spanish politician

News agencies

LASARATE, Spain — A Spanish politician kidnapped by Basque ETA terrorists was shot in the head and killed, a judge said yesterday.

ETA, whose name stands for Basque Homeland and Freedom, kidnapped Miguel Angel Blanco Thursday and threatened to kill the member of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar's Popular Party at 4 p.m. yesterday if the government did not change its prison policy.

Blanco was found by highway rescue workers with his hands tied. He was rushed to hospital where officials confirmed he was dead.

The killing took place despite a rally of half a million Spaniards led by Aznar in the northern Basque capital Bilbao to protest the kidnap.

ETA has killed some 800 people since starting a drive for Basque

independence in 1968. ETA had said Blanco would be killed unless some 450 ETA prisoners in jails throughout Spain are transferred to prisons in the Basque region.

The rebels have set deadlines to execute kidnap victims twice before, in 1981 and 1983, and in both cases the hostages were murdered.

Chanting "life yes, ETA no," the marchers flocked through the northern Basque city in what officials said was the biggest protest against ETA separatist rebels in history.

The death caused outrage across Spain, which had just been celebrating the release of two other ETA hostages last week, and sparked an angry backlash.

Even nationalist politicians in the region who support the separatist cause but oppose violence turned out for the protest and called on ETA to release Blanco.



Miguel Angel Blanco (Reuters)

"[ETA] have to know we cannot live with this barbarity any longer. If they carry out this threat, the Basque people will never, never forgive them," Basque interior councillor Juan Maria Anutxa told state television in Bilbao.

Aznar headed the protest march in Bilbao, marching alongside his wife and fierce Basque nationalist leader Jose Antonio Ardanza. They carried a yellow banner at the front that said "Peace Now and Forever" in the Basque language.

The protest drew people from all over Spain, but mostly from the Basque region where special buses and trains were arranged to transport thousands of visitors to Bilbao.

All of Spain's main television stations aired the nearly three-hour demonstration live, showing aerial views of Bilbao's packed streets and plazas with a sea of marchers stretching on for kilometers.

"This shows the solidarity of the Basques against ETA, they are more isolated than ever," Bilbao resident Marcelino Oreja said.

"Today we are not talking about ideology, we are talking about something sweeter, we are talking

about liberty." Grim-faced protesters held up their hands in a stop signal and shouted "Enough, already" and "Freedom, freedom."

Herri Batasuna, ETA's political wing, consistently gets about 15 percent of the vote in the region, but Basques have become increasingly disgusted with the ongoing violence.

A peace movement started about five years ago in the region has encouraged Basques to overcome the fear of publicly defying ETA and take an active role in trying to stop the killings.

The mass march ended in front of Bilbao's town hall where the protesters held a five-minute period of silence before hearing a statement from the family of the 29-year-old kidnap victim.

"Life is a right for everyone," Blanco's sister told the demonstration to enormous applause. "We are living in very difficult times."



OJ Simpson talks to an interviewer at his Brentwood home last week. (Reuters)

OJ: I won't pay damages

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — OJ Simpson, found liable for the deaths of his ex-wife and her friend, says he will live on his pension and has no intention of working to pay off the \$33.5 million damages awarded against him.

"I'm not going to go and work and give my money to Fred Goldman," the former football star said in an interview aired Friday on CNN.

Goldman's son Ronald was slashed to death June 12, 1994, along with Nicole Brown Simpson. Simpson was acquitted at a criminal trial of their murders, but was sued by the victims' families in civil court for their unlawful deaths.

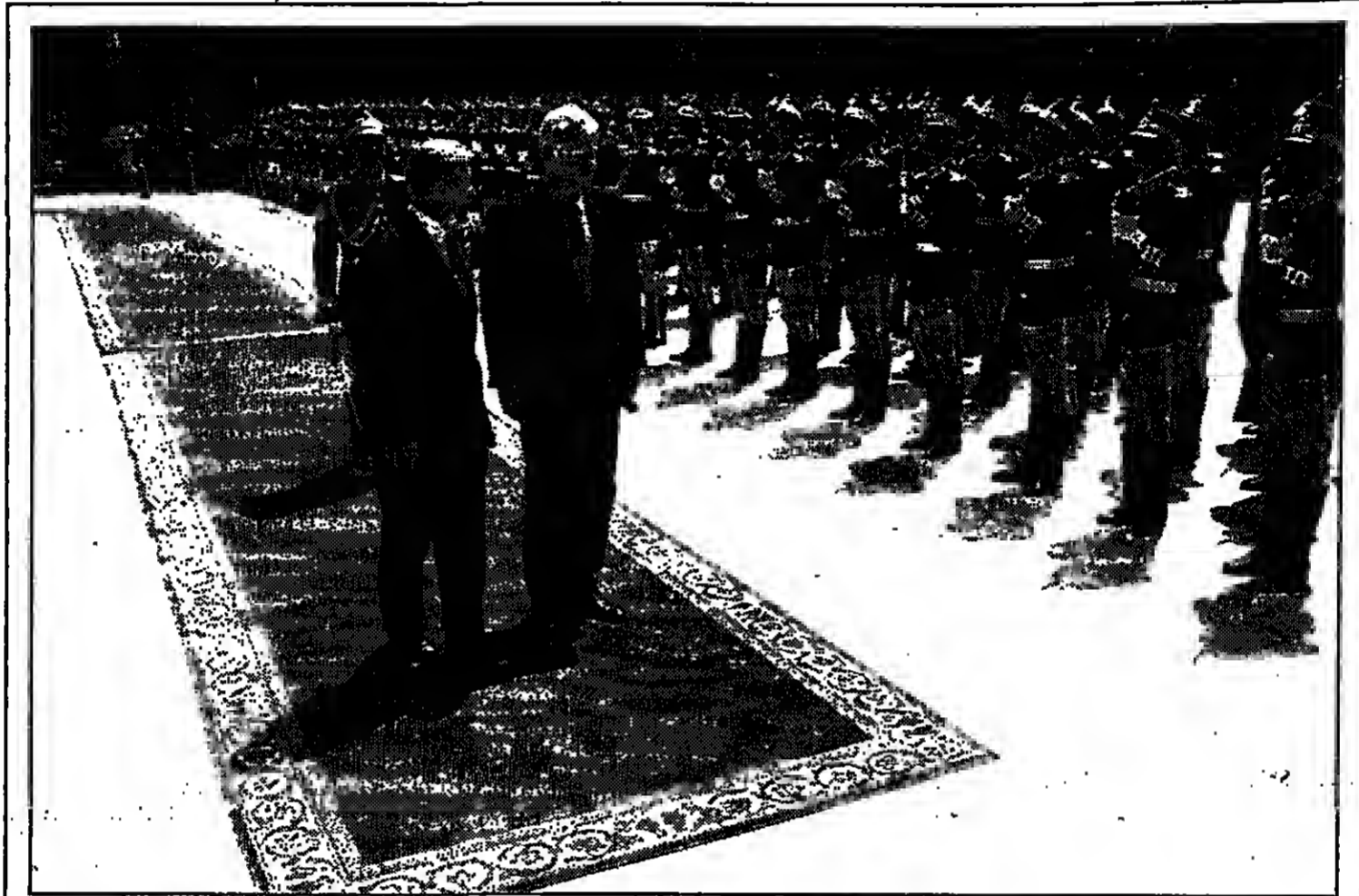
In a civil trial that ended earlier this year, Simpson was ordered to pay a total of \$33.5 million in damages to the victims' families.

The court has already seized some of Simpson's material assets to help pay the damages, and tomorrow Simpson's \$3 million mansion is being auctioned off. He said he would be looking for a new home in the Los Angeles area for himself and his two children — Sydney and Justin — before the start of the new school year in September. Real estate experts said that typically the auction price of homes that have some notoriety often plummet.

A bankruptcy attorney said that if the house sells for less than its \$3 million value, the bank holding the lien may join the line of Simpson's creditors to recover its losses.

Asked if he will file bankruptcy — a move that would immediately halt the auction — Simpson said: "If I have to I will. I don't have money. The money I do have is coming in from my pension. People are mad at me because I wasn't [former world heavyweight boxing champion] Joe Louis and broke!" he said.

His pensions are from the National Football League and from two companies he set up. The pension funds — worth an estimated total of about \$25,000 a month — cannot be touched to pay civil damages.



Clinton gives Romania NATO hope
President Bill Clinton walks with Romanian President Emil Constantinescu in front of an honor guard Friday at the presidential palace in Bucharest. Clinton arrived for a quick visit to encourage the country to persist with its bid for NATO membership. (Reuters)

Tests probe TWA crash

NEW YORK — In an eerie simulation of TWA Flight 800's final course, crash investigators are planning a range of flight tests in the next few days that they hope will yield clues about what caused the plane's center fuel tank to explode.

Nine tests on a Boeing 747-100 — about the same age as the TWA airplane — are scheduled to begin as early as today or tomorrow at Kennedy Airport, duplicating conditions they believe may have been present during the final moments of Flight 800, including fuel tank temperatures, vibrations and vapor buildup.

"We're looking for temperature vibrations and taking vapor samples as the plane climbs," said Shelly Hazle, a National Transportation Safety Board spokesman. "It will also be a series of tests to know how the air conditioning units affect the tank temperatures that are obtained and how altitude affects temperature."

The TWA flight "emulation" will include loading Jet A fuel obtained from Athens Airport in Greece, taking the plane up to 35,000 feet to recreate the temperature level of the plane during its seven-hour leg to Kennedy and then running the air conditioning for two hours on the ground — as was the case with Flight 800 — before going up again. Athens was the origination point for Flight 800.

One of the reasons officials want to use jet fuel from Athens is that it contains an anti-static additive not found in domestic fuel.

Another test will involve using laptop computers and cellular phones on the plane before takeoff and then using overhead lights and radios in-flight to determine whether there may have been electromagnetic interference that could have affected the wiring that leads to the center fuel tank.

One of the six theories being investigated involves a possible wiring short circuit that, combined with a malfunctioning residue-laden fuel probe, could have touched off the blast. (Newsday)

Mafia's Bull faces book-profits attack

NEW YORK — Salvatore Gravano, the former mobster who is now a government informer, said Friday he would fight court suits that relatives of some of his murder victims filed to seize his profits from a best-selling book about his life.

Gravano, known as "Sammy the Bull," said this as he testified for a second day in the murder and racketeering trial of Vincent Gigante, who is accused of heading a Mafia crime family in

Brooklyn. On Thursday, he acknowledged receiving \$250,000 from the book and said he hoped to earn \$1 million more from a movie deal.

The issue of Gravano's book earnings was raised during an intensive cross-examination by a lawyer for Gigante, who assailed the witness' character and trustworthiness. The lawyer, Michael Marinaccio, sought to convince the jury that a man who had participated in 19 murders and

lied abundantly in the past would lie in the courtroom to further promote the book and clinch a movie deal.

Marinaccio used it to show that Gravano has said different things in court and in the book, noted that at a previous court hearing Gravano, 52, had admitted that he had lived a "life of lies."

"I believe that's what it is in the mob, yes," Gravano responded Friday. (The New York Times)

80 dead in Thai resort hotel fire

PATTAYA, Thailand (Reuters) — More than 80 people are known to have died in Thailand's worst hotel fire and the toll looked certain to rise yesterday after rescue workers re-entered the badly damaged building.

Police said the search had been delayed by concern for the rescuers' safety and the need to protect hotel property and belongings left behind by fleeing guests.

The death toll from Friday's

blaze at the 400-room Royal Jomtien Resort Hotel at Pattaya, about 200 kilometers southeast of Bangkok, had reached 81, including 10 foreigners. Another 70 people were injured.

Rescue workers said they believed more bodies were still trapped in the ruins of the 16-story beachfront hotel. "We are moving in soon and should find more bodies," said Setapan Puthanee of the Thai tourist authority. Setapan said

foreigners killed included Belgians, Hungarians, and Koreans.

The blaze, started by a cooking gas explosion in the hotel's ground-floor cafeteria, spread quickly to upper stories.

Most of the victims died of suffocation after their escape was blocked by locked exit doors. "The hotel owners locked the emergency exits to prevent guests from sneaking out without paying their bills," a rescue worker said.

Northern Ireland violence continues

DUNLOY, Northern Ireland (AP) — Declaring that unprecedented concessions by Protestants weren't enough, Catholics blocked members of Northern Ireland's main Protestant fraternal group from marching through several Catholic towns yesterday.

The 80,000-strong Orange Order had already surprised Northern Ireland by calling off four parades

that would have encountered fierce Catholic opposition, and in return had hoped that Catholics would withdraw their protests in villages like Dunloy.

Instead, anti-British militants in north Belfast overnight attacked British troops and police operating a road checkpoint, wounding three soldiers and two officers with gunfire and a grenade.

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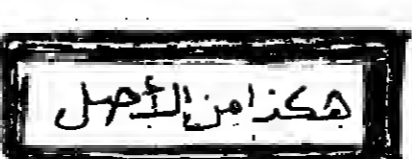
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NATO's party pooper

The enlargement of NATO has been a done deal for some time. There was little left for President Bill Clinton to do this week-end other than face the cheering crowds in eastern European capitals and smooth the ruffled feathers of those rejected.

Clinton's personal performance was all we have come to expect from him on overseas trips. He now seems second only to the pope in his ability to draw and woo enthusiastic crowds—in his first and second terms he has done so from Israel to Ireland and from Mexico to Romania. Even in Bucharest, where Romanians were disappointed at being excluded from the first wave of new NATO members, there was little sign of anything except understanding and enthusiasm for the American president.

How all this will look with the long perspective of history is moot, to say the least. NATO enlargement has been sold with little real questioning as a "good thing." Those invited to join are wildly enthusiastic, those next in line are impatient and hurt at being told to wait. Russia grudgingly admits there is nothing it can do about it and has agreed not to be churlish.

The only country not buying the whole deal is France. In all the reports from the various conferences and events attending the NATO expansion, French objections are meriting little more than footnotes. The attitude—in the Anglo-Saxon world at least—is that we expect the French to be bloody-minded; it's part of their culture, and who cares? The view from Paris deserves more serious consideration. In the future, it will probably get it. The simple question is—do the taxpayers of the United States and Europe know why their hard-earned money is being spent on enlarging a dinosaur whose main enemies have become extinct?

The East Europeans certainly are enthusiastic and standing in line to join the club. They still do not like or trust Russia; their memories of communist rule are the antithesis of what they imagine to be the modern, Western lifestyles to which they aspire. This perspective is quite understandable, but does the rest of Europe have to buy into it—or rather, pay into it? An underlying motive for expanding NATO eastwards is covert revenge on the old Soviet Union. The closer one gets to the Baltic states, the less hidden that becomes.

When World War II ended, disgraced and blackened Western Germany was quickly rehabilitated into the bosom of newly born NATO, and then became a founder of the embryonic European Economic Community. It was occupied, certainly, but it was not encircled by a hostile military alliance of its former enemies. Seen from Moscow, NATO expansion still looks like the winners of the Cold War creeping up to its borders for no apparent reason other than to gloat. For all Clinton's talk of dismantling barriers and bright new futures, the thinking inside NATO still remains locked in a Cold War mold.

Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine admitted his country is a voice crying in the wilderness. France is cold-shouldered even by its ally Germany in trying to advance the case for a new concept of European defense. Vedrine reported ruefully to his parliament's foreign affairs committee that the East Europeans who took part in the Madrid summit had only one idea in their heads—moving closer to NATO. In their eyes that means modernity and rejoining the Western community, he said. "France is alone in carrying the idea of a European defense."

Vedrine of course sees Britain—its "Euro" credentials always suspect—as the villain of the NATO saga. He said Britain had done everything possible at last month's European Union Amsterdam summit to stifle discussion of an EU defense option via the Western European Union. France believes Britain wants to keep European defense policy completely subject to the Atlantic alliance.

The British could argue with some justification that in two world wars it was Britain who saved European honor (and France) by struggling on until the United States saved the continent from going under. And it was NATO that stood unyielding against Stalin and Brezhnev while France was suspiciously fellow-traveling with the dour and dangerous Kremlin—just to annoy Washington.

Yet France is probably right on this illogical drive to expand this lumbering old post-war military alliance. Whatever 1990s gloss is put upon it, it seems the alliance is getting ready to drive into the next century in a shiny new vehicle which is hiding under the hood a Cold War engine, designed in the 1950s.

Pointless deaths

This weekend's double-digit toll of drowning deaths is not an isolated case of an unseasonably turbulent sea surprising innocent bathers. Almost every summer weekend, spent happily at the beach by thousands of sunbathers, ends in tragedy for one family or more.

And what makes the tragedy all the more painful is that the majority of drownings need not have happened.

Two weeks ago, two young sisters aged 12 and 11, Revital and Dorit Fiti, drowned off the Sea Palace Beach near Bat Yam. The young girls, neither of whom could swim, went to the beach at seven in the evening and, despite there being no lifeguard, entered the water with the intention of paddling. Strong undercurrents dragged Dorit down, and she began to drown. Revital, seeing what was happening, went to her younger sister's rescue and she, too, within seconds, drowned. This weekend, two young girls aged 13 and 16, swimming in Lake Kinneret at a beach where there was no lifeguard, disap-

peared from their parents' view. It was left to divers to drag out their lifeless bodies from the rocks under which they had been trapped.

Labor MK Nissim Zvilli last night called for an urgent Knesset debate to discuss these tragedies. Zvilli said the government, the Ministry of Interior, and the local authorities should form an emergency committee to fight what he termed "this dreadful plague."

While Zvilli is right to be shocked at this weekend's pointless waste of lives, the solution to this problem does not lie within the Knesset's walls. Aside from ensuring that unsupervised beaches are clearly marked with signs in Hebrew, Arabic, Russian, and English, warning that swimming is both dangerous and prohibited, it is unreasonable to ask the authorities to make up for something so sadly lacking in so many people's behavior once they get a glimpse of the sea on a hot summer's day: simple common sense.

If there's no lifeguard, don't enter the water.

REMEMBER: IT'S BOMBS FOR HEBRON AND COMPLAINTS TO THE UN!



OLEB 97

The monarchy business

In the monarchy business, generally speaking, losing is forever.

Some two dozen kings have been overthrown in this century, from the Russian, German, Austrian, and Turkish emperors in 1917-18 to the Greek, Ethiopian, and Afghan monarchs in the '70s.

Only one—King Juan Carlos of Spain—has ever got the throne back. But now the prospects are brightening all over the Balkans.

Recently, the tallest man in Albania has been Leka Zogu (2.02 meters), back from South African exile with the blessing of beleaguered President Sali Berisha. The would-be King Leka I has left Queen Susan (former Australian designer Susan Cullen-Ward) back in Johannesburg for the time being, as Albania has become a rather dangerous place recently, but Leka is deadly serious about getting the throne back.

In fact, he already talks like the King of the Albanians. He doesn't even rule out taking the Albanian-majority region of Kosovo from Serbia by force—though, he adds sagely, "I would hope that it wouldn't be necessary, because the last thing I need is another war in the Balkans."

President Berisha, desperate for allies, has already promised a referendum on restoring the Albanian monarchy.

All the Balkan countries were monarchies before 1945, mostly with royal families they imported from Germany, when they escaped from Turkish rule during the 19th century. All of the kings (except in Greece) were chased out by the communists at the start of the Cold War. And all of them are now trying to make a comeback.

The likeliest to succeed is King Simeon of the Bulgarians (also known as Simeon Coburgoski, a business consultant in Madrid).

"If the Bulgarian parliament decides to conduct a referendum on whether to have a republic or a monarchy," he says, "I will accept and support the decision." There is every chance that the new Bulgarian parliament, elected last month after demonstrations drove the ex-Communists from power, might decide to do just that.

When Simeon visited Bulgaria a year ago, for the first time since he left in 1946 at the age of nine, half a million people turned out to cheer him. A recent opinion poll named him the most popular man in Bulgaria. Many members of the right-wing coalition that won last month's elections openly back Simeon's return—and his son

now works as an adviser to President Petar Stoyanov.

Less glowing are the prospects of Alexander Karadjorjevic, a London insurance broker, who is the son of the last king of Yugoslavia, King Peter II. What's left of Yugoslavia—Serbia, basically—is still in the grip of the dictator Slobodan Milosevic, a

recycled communist who has no time for royalty. But Milosevic is rather less popular these days, having lost the savage war to create a Greater Serbia that he launched five years ago.

During the months of demonstrations in Belgrade against rigged elections earlier this year, all three of the main Serbian opposition leaders went to London to see Crown Prince Alexander.

One of them, Vuk Draskovic, promised that he would restore Alexander's citizenship if he wins the presidential elections this year, and declared publicly: "Serbia needs a Serbian Juan Carlos."

Alexander would love to have the job of easing Serbia's transition from dictatorship to democracy, the same job Juan Carlos did in Spain after the death of long-ruling dictator Francisco Franco. "I'll be very positive, get down to the job, make friends... My job is to provide a mediatory role over coffee, and a pat on the back. It would have been marvelous if the recent wars of succession could have been fought out in this way."

Alexander's chances of ascending the Serbian throne would be better, however, if he actually spoke fluent Serbian. (Born in exile in London in 1945, he has only visited Serbia once, in 1991.) And Milosevic has no plans to quit soon.

Finally, there is Michael Hohenzollern, a retired market gardener living in Geneva, who was once king of Romania. He was forced to abdicate by the Russians in 1947, but in recent

months the new Romanian government has given him back his citizenship and invited him to Bucharest, where he was mobbed by adoring crowds.

The new president, Emil Constantinescu, has had dinner with him; Romanian embassies abroad have been instructed to address Michael as "Yonr Majesty"; and he unsuccessfully toured Western Europe trying to persuade governments to include Romania in the first wave of former Soviet-bloc entrants into NATO and the European Union. In Britain, he even had lunch with the queen.

BUT that is probably as far as he will get, for Romania today is a country where the problems are starting to shrink. It has peacefully voted out the ex-communists who clung to power for most of the period since 1989, it has decent relations with all its neighbors, and its economy is beginning to turn around. It just does not need the symbolic magic of a monarchy.

It's the countries where both politics and the economy seem broken beyond repair that are attracted to the idea that a king could change matters—which means that Leka of Albania, Simeon of Bulgaria, and even Alexander of Serbia have a real chance of being asked back.

But the honeymoon is unlikely to last, because the Balkan royals have lived too long as ordinary people. The romance and the mystique are gone, and without them a monarch becomes a faintly ridiculous figure. Ask Britain's Queen Elizabeth.

Her children and their spouses are deeply embarrassing, she now has to pay some taxes, and half the British people say they wouldn't miss the monarchy a bit. Australia will hold a referendum to drop it in the next couple of years. Only Fiji really wants her.

Fiji dumped Queen Elizabeth 10 years ago, as part of the coup that brought Gen. Sitiveni Rabuka to power. But now he wants her back as the constitutional queen of Fiji, and most of the Fijian population seems quite enthusiastic about it. It's a match made in heaven: feudal-minded Fijians, and a queen who lives as far away as is possible without going into orbit.

From that distance, monarchy still glitters. It's a lot less shiny when they actually come and live with you.

The writer is a London-based independent journalist.

Popcorn politics

LARRY DERFNER

Israelis, we have been taught to believe, take their politics more seriously than people in other countries.

Foreigners can watch the news or not watch the news, and it doesn't matter.

What's at stake for them? Another dollar more or less in taxes?

But here, it is said, Israelis take the news to heart, they're intimately involved in it because they have to be.

Politics in this country isn't something that happens far away, far above, with no connection to regular people. Here it means life and death, which is why everybody's interested.

I don't know when this stopped being true, but it isn't true any longer.

To the extent that they're interested in politics at all, most Israelis see it as entertainment, like a drama series, or a drive for the soccer championship.

What was at stake in the David Levy crisis? If he got what he wanted or he didn't, if he was mad or sad or glad, what did it mean to the welfare of the State of Israel? What did it mean to the Middle East, to the world? What, I ask in earnest, did it mean to you and me?

We know the answer: Nothing. Absolute, thoroughgoing nothing.

David Levy is a cipher as foreign minister, he has zero effect on Israel's standing in the world, and now he will get to rack up a few extra zeroes.

Let's continue: What did it matter if Ariel Sharon or Ya'acov Ne'eman became finance minister?

Can anybody guess how Ne'eman might shape Israel's economy differently than would Sharon? Is Ne'eman any less likely to spend money on the settlements than Sharon would? If

Israelis live on a steady diet of sound bites that mean nothing

Sharon had entered Netanyahu's inner circle, could he have buried the peace process any deeper?

No. In the real world, this go-round also meant nothing. But for the essence of the politics of meaningless, think of the days of indecision over whether Shaul Amor, Silvan Shalom or Michael Eitan would become our nation's science minister.

Yet these have been the issues preoccupying most Israelis who follow the news.

The media, responding to and shaping popular attitudes, tell the story of Israeli politics as if it's sports or melodrama: "This is final, Haim: Ne'eman's in, Sharon's out. It was touch and go, but Mickey Eitan outmaneuvered Silvan Shalom and came in first at the finish line. Once again, Shaul Amor has been humiliated. Mark my words, Arik Sharon has only one thing on his mind: revenge."

I ADMIT, it's fascinating. There are some intriguing characters, lots of tension, high emotions, razzle-dazzle finishes—but it's junk. Popcorn. It's of ultimate substance to the politicians involved, but of none to anyone else. Yet many Israelis eat it from morning till night.

At the same time, there are a lot of political events in this country that do have meaning, tremendous meaning.

The Bar-On Affair involved, among other things, the possibility that the leadership of this country tried to corrupt the office of attorney-general.

The Meridor resignation showed that a politician with too much integrity and popularity can't survive in the present government.

Tzahi Hanegbi's accusations against Ehud Barak over Tze'elim-2 were a reminder that Israel has an unusually malignant young man for minister of justice.

But I sense that most Israelis can't tell the difference between meaningful political events and junk.

Whatever happens, it's about who's up and who's down: That Deri, they'll never get him. Looks like Meridor outsmarted himself this time. I tell you, Tzahi isn't afraid of anybody.

And the ironic thing is that while Israelis insist on watching politics as a wrestling match, events are happening just over the Green Line, just over the northern border, that really could mean life or death to them, soon, and they're not interested.

Israelis take politics seriously, more so than foreigners?

Tell me another story.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Duncan McNab of Pukekohe, New Zealand, shows off his award-winning pumpkin at an agricultural show in Auckland. His 153 kg pumpkin won the prize for heaviest produce. (Reuters)

POSTSCRIPT

IT WAS a wild goose chase like Canada's over seen: some guy had Toronto police on the run after he kidnaped a handful of wildlife.

Over a two-week period, Peter Lerat snagged first a Canada goose and then a baby raccoon and paraded them around the downtown streets of Toronto, threatening to kill them unless passersby paid him money.

Ransom was set at \$50. Lerat allegedly collected the fee from a customer at a doughnut shop. Once he had his money, he dropped the goose and bolted. The goose was taken to the Toronto Humane Society and eventually released in a local park.

The raccoon, however, proved Lerat's undoing. With the furry mammal clutched under one arm and a rock in his hand, Lerat strolled along the Queen Street restaurant corridor, threatening to bash the baby animal's head unless he was paid.

Nobody offered to save the raccoon, but a bus driver phoned police, who nabbed Lerat after a scuffle.

The raccoon was more difficult to catch. It took refuge beneath a police cruiser. Worried about the animal's safety, police left it alone until a tow truck could arrive and lift the car. Animal control officers then captured the raccoon and shipped it to the humane society.

Lerat later demanded to make his court appearance naked. Who says Canada's boring?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE WESTERN WALL

Sir.—In your July 1 issue, you report the Palestinian Authority's denial of the sanctity of the Wall on its Internet website. At the same time, it reiterates some reshaped fabrications such as Israel attempting to set fire to al-Aksa and undermining its foundation.

To our amazement, the listing of the five most important sites of the

three faiths omits the Western Wall. Instead, it appears under a new name, the "al-Boraq Wall." This concocted name was first introduced at the end of the 19th century when the Arabs became aware of the supreme importance of this site to the Jews.

Now we are told that Mohammed, while making a

stopover at Jerusalem on his flight to Heaven, harnessed his legendary horse al-Boraq by the tail to the Wall. With all due respect to the Moslems' religious beliefs, the negation of the sanctity of the Wall to Jews borders between the ridiculous and the absurd.

ELIYAHU TAL
Tel Aviv.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 Years Ago
In a leading article *The Manchester Guardian* lambasts the failure of the British government adequately to work the Mandate, and points out that, after having undertaken to establish a Jewish National Home, the government is now presenting the Emir Abdullah with a "kingdom and all found." The paper urges that effective changes should be made in the scheme, insisting upon the inclusion in the Jewish State of the Dead Sea, the Palestine Electric Corporation plant at Naharayim, part of Jerusalem and the Negev.

25 Years Ago
The Knesset made the first move to reform the Israeli electoral system and replace proportional representation by a system of mixed regional-proportional parliamentary elections.

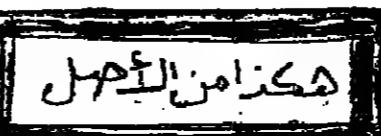
10 Years Ago
Six die in head-on collision at Ashkelon.

Meir Nakar, Ya'acov Weiss and Avshalom Haviv, whose death sentences for their part in the Acre Prison raid were confirmed by the General Officer Commanding British Forces in Palestine.

The mayor of Netanya, Mr. O. Ben-Arni, was summoned to the Area Commander, Brig. J.N.R. Moore, who conveyed to him the warning that the Army "would take action which might cause inconvenience to the public as a whole" if the sergeants were not released at once.

The US denied threatening Israel by talking directly to the PLO.

Alexander Zvielli



ON CAMERA

The right angle

By DAVID BRAUNER

As "a rite of passage," Bronke challenged himself with photographing an entire body of work on the architecture of Rome.

The task took nine months, and ultimately became a successful and award-winning book, *Views of Rome* (Rizzoli, 1995). "After Rome, the only city that one can think about doing that has the same kind of matchless historical fabric is Jerusalem," asserts Brooke, whose Jerusalem book is slated for publication in spring 1998.

Again, the 20th-century photographer is holding up 19th-century photographs and etchings of the Holy City as models for his own oeuvre.

Jerusalem's architectural treasures, he concedes, have proved more difficult in many ways to photograph than Rome's. For one thing, Rome has only three basic epochs: ancient, Christian and modern, whereas, architecturally speaking, Jerusalem has at least 12 different periods. Jerusalem is also more concentrated, more cramped, and frequently "contemporary architecture spoils the mood. It's getting more difficult to find the timeless and immutable," he says.

Brooke works entirely alone. At least in Rome he had the advantage of being able to ride a scooter, but in Jerusalem he could reach certain places only on foot. "Jerusalem is a place of pilgrimage and ardor. It's appropriate here to work for your shots. For me, that's an enjoyable part of it."

His equipment bag, lighting and tripod weigh about 16 kg. On the other hand, the Italian red-tape and police were a nuisance. To use a tripod in Rome "you need reams of documents." Sometimes, Brooke just hid in the bushes and waited for the carabinieri to go away. And it took "months of negotiations" with the Vatican to photograph the pope's private chapel, the Cappella Paulina.

As a research fellow at the Albright Institute, Brooke found it much easier to gain entrance to a number of buildings in Jerusalem, including the Dome of the Rock.

Brooke photographs with a precision, Swiss-made view (bellows) camera, in order to



The Crusader Church crypt at Abu Ghosh, 1997, by Steven Brooke

(David Brauner)

avoid converging lines. He never uses flash. "I wouldn't know how," he says. He eschews the "seductive immediacy of color" for monochrome and platinum printing. "Black-and-white is the best medium for rendering architecture, texture, and to create the kinds of images one holds in ones memory, images where there is room for

the mind to wander around and explore."

On his work in progress, Brooke's pronouncements are uncompromising. "My approach to composition is anything but casual, and I have absolutely no interest in people except as scale figures." Each image is "a formal structural analysis" aimed at capturing the soul of the building.

He also asserts: "There is a key best moment, perhaps only a two-minute window, in the day to photograph any piece of architecture. I believe that so strongly that I will do almost anything to determine when that moment is, and will die to get it right. If you keep the ideal in front of you, it is easier to achieve the ideal."

Brooke articulates the importance of the camera obscura, an early device he defines as "a camera without film," in the portrayal of architecture in two dimensions. Artists used the "dark box" as an aid to viewing perspective.

A lean, wiry man with intense eyes, Brooke, 54, hails from "a very Zionist family" in the American Midwest. He's now based in Miami, where he lives with his architect wife and three-year-old son. From an early age, he learned perspective drawing and photography, and in 1979, he gave up a successful career in microbiology to pursue architectural photography.

Brooke's commercial work for some of America's finest architects and architectural journals often takes him far from home. Many projects are ongoing. In his book *Seaside*, Brooke's camera followed the building of the new development town of Seaside, Florida, from inception to completion. In 1991, Brooke applied for membership to the American Academy of Rome, and became the first architectural photographer to win the American Grand Prix de Rome scholarship.

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DEAR RUTHIE

By RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, I've been married for many years, to a kind, thoughtful, understanding man, but he offends me when he calls me "woman." He says I should not take offense. Where he grew up in the United States, a husband always called his wife "woman" or "old woman," and a wife always called her husband "man" or "old man" - even if they were newlyweds and both in their early 20s.

He also says a German calls his wife "meine Frau" and a wife calls her husband "mein Mann." So there is nothing to feel insulted about.

Yes I feel insulted. Do you have any advice? I have a Name Somewhere in Israel Dear Named,

A husband who ignores his wife's requests about comments which offend her - whether or not she is right to be offended - is being insensitive at best, and aggressive at worst. However, you describe your spouse as "kind, thoughtful and understanding," which indicates that you believe he is not intentionally ignoring your pleas. What it might mean, however, is that your otherwise ever-thoughtful husband has an unconscious yearning to express a little hostility.

On the other hand, all of this might simply mean that you have a bit of self-examining to do. Perhaps you should be asking yourself why you take such offense at a nickname of this sort.

You might discover that your sensitivity to the use of the word "woman" has certain connotations for you (beyond political correctness), which stem from something unpleasant in your early childhood.

If so, your husband is wrong to pooh-pooh your feeling insulted; and you are wrong to blame him for a "crime" perpetrated long before he entered your life.

Dear Ruthie, My soon-to-be mother-in-law hates my wedding dress! After shopping for weeks, I finally found what I consider to be the most spectacular gown, and I brought it home to show it off in my family and my boyfriend's family.

Now I feel unsure about whether I made the right choice. My boyfriend's mother and I have been very close since the first time I met her. I value her opinion.

Yet I love what I bought. Or, at least I thought I did, at first. Should I exchange it? My best friend (who has been married for two years) said this is just emotional blackmail, and that if I give in now, I'll be sorry later. I don't know what to do.

Fit me Tied Somewhere in Israel Dear Mis-Fit,

Deciding what you want is a problem which you will have to deal with in your life - particularly your married life. Your wedding dress is merely a symbol of this kind of decision. In that sense, your best friend may or may not be correct in her assessment of your future mother-in-law's behavior as "emotional blackmail."

She is right on target, however, in sensing that this issue is representative of others. Not only is your faith in your own judgment at stake here, but to what extent your husband's family will be able to influence that judgment is in question.

If the gown you purchased felt "right" when you found it, you should not be so quick to contemplate exchanging it, just because someone else hated it, including - or, perhaps, especially - if that someone is your future mother-in-law.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

HEADS 'N' TAILS

Strategies in the war against fleas

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL



Equip your pet with a flea and tick collar.

So, your dog has fleas. If so, then, believe it or not, he probably has what are known as cat fleas. The species defined as dog fleas almost always is confined to wild animals - jackals, wolves, and sometimes even foxes.

Since eight out of every 10 letters that reach this column have to do with the problem of fleas, it is clearly a widespread concern. But if you think that I, or anyone else, has a simple answer, then forget it!

There is little to do about obliterating the problem, though some things will at times ameliorate it.

First of all, see that all your animals are dusted once a week with a good insecticidal powder, and then make sure that all the places where they like to lounge are also dusted.

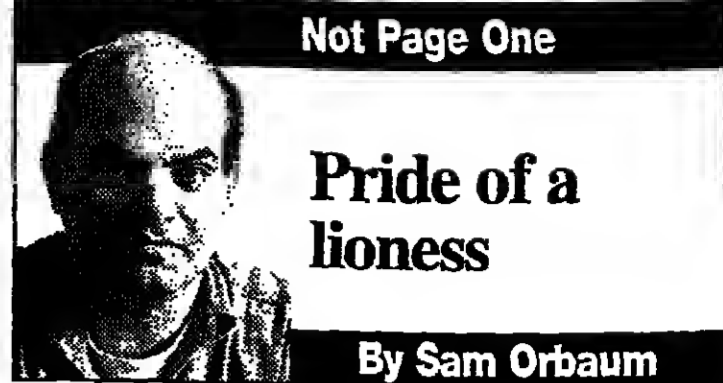
Next, see that all your cats and dogs wear an insecticidal flea and tick collar. It sounds so simple but it isn't. You may have a

cat like my own tom-cat George. The first time I tried to put a collar on him he just ran away. The second time I enlisted the aid of my veterinarian and he held the cat in a towel while I tried to give him a collar. The end result was that George got away, slashed my hand and I spent 10 days in bandages!

Uncooperative though he may be, I've been persistent. I also equip all the animals close to him with flea collars and dust them weekly. And whenever I find him asleep then I dust him and even spray him. He doesn't appreciate my efforts but I do what I can.

You should consult the veterinarian who cares for your animal. He or she probably knows more about what products are available and what does or does not work in your area, because the resistance of fleas to insecticidal chemicals varies from place to place.

In the end, one has to be patient. The war against fleas is a never-ending war.



Not Page One

Pride of a lioness

By Sam Orbaum

When Esther gave birth to twin boys, it was a mother's greatest joy - until she got the news. One of them, Raphael, had Down's.

A hospital social worker suggested she go home with the healthy baby and "forget about the other one."

Abandon a child? Never!

That uncompromising principle may well have served as the family motto for Esther's seven sons. Eight years later, it nourished one of them during his last days alive when Raphael's brother, Nahshon Wachsmann, fell into the grips of Hamas kidnapers.

For a tortuous week, a pack of savages dangled the life of a teenage boy before the eyes of the civilized world. The Wachsmans heard thousands of reassuring voices - but not then, and never since, from the twin who counted most: Nahshon and Raphael, each a captive in his own solitude.

Nahshon died. Raphael has never lived in reality.

Now 10 years old, Raphael does not speak. He is low-functioning, even for a Down's child. He understood nothing about Nahshon's ordeal, that he would never see his brother again.

mutual respect a year after the murder. They issued a joint statement and have continued to maintain contact. Both men endured the rancor of some of their countrymen - Yehuda was bodily thrown out of a synagogue. Yassin received death threats and was shot at - but for many others, their gesture was the pinnacle of courage.

Yehuda is an independent thinker, one of those rare Israelis who sees matters not in terms of right and left, but right and wrong. He weighs with wisdom, adjudges with justice. "My husband's the cerebral one; I'm pure emotion."

Much of Esther's persona is the product of "second-generation syndrome": her parents survived Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. Esther was born in a German DP camp. "I was typical of the 'second generation': I had to be perfect, I had to excel, I had to make up for everything they lost. I was their Great White Hope."

And then, she gave her parents an imperfect grandson.

"They went into total denial. I was brought up in a family where things were hidden, nothing was ever said, everything was always OK. I was never allowed to be unhappy or

How does a mother bury one son, then marry off another?

"I don't know how much Raphael... I don't know what's in there," Esther says tenderly. "Raphael understands things like 'go to the refrigerator and take out the milk'; 'go to the bathroom'; he doesn't understand 'your brother was killed.' "He can't understand; he can't talk. All he can do is point to Nahshon's picture."

Esther is beyond ducking the truth. "Raphael is severely retarded," she states forthrightly, dispelling a stranger's awkwardness. "But he's very warm, loving... anyone who's met Raphael, he hugs and kisses and smiles, and sings and dances. He brings a lot of life into the house."

Esther would be just an average, unremarkable woman had not grim fate aroused a lioness's valor she didn't even know she had. It might have been easier to sink into the comfort of self-pity, but Esther Wachsmann bears her gnawing grief in the mawkish glare of the public. Think of it: a woman who had never before faced an audience suddenly finds herself in the middle of Madison Square Garden as the keynote speaker in front of 10,000 rapt listeners.

Would 10,000 people have come to hear her talk about the ordinary joys of motherhood?

There is the indelicate question of why someone would travel the world and stand in the spotlight to talk about personal tragedy. The reason is itself extraordinary.

Esther and her husband Yehuda look like "typical" Orthodox settlers (they're not; they live in Ramot), and for a couple that has lost a son to terrorism, it should be easy to guess their message: the need for a secure Greater Israel cleansed of those evil Palestinians.

Not quite.

The Wachsmans preach tolerance and coexistence. Yes, neighborliness with the people who barbarically killed their son. They've established a center for understanding and tolerance, in Nahshon's name.

To underscore the message, Yehuda did something for peace more astoundingly gutsy than you'll ever see from a Nobel prizewinner: he shook the hand of Sheikh Bader Yassin, whose son murdered his.

Only after Yassin agreed to Yehuda's preconditions - that Yassin denounce terrorism and state that his own son deserved to die for his crimes - the two men met in

depressed because 'What do you have to be depressed about!' So for me to have this baby, it was traumatic: I had an imperfect child? This can't be, I'm the perfect person!"

Yehuda reacted to the social worker's suggestion with white rage. He told Esther, with eerie prophecy: "This is our child, and he's growing up in our home, with our love. What if something ever happens to one of our other children, will we abandon him too?"

The emergence from the closet was difficult and painful, but the family learned a lesson when one day, Raphael's twin stood up to the taunts of other children in a playground. "God made him like this, and you laugh at him? You should thank God he's not your brother." He was only four years old.

Family life revolves around Raphael's needs, but they have help. Shalva, a marvelous volunteer organization that cares for handicapped children, has been like a second family for Raphael. The Wachsmans' appreciation is mutual: in May, Shalva honored Esther as its Humanitarian of the Year, and lined up Ileana Kirkpatrick to present the award in New York.

In conversation with Esther, one is struck by the quick transition of her expressions from cheery to melancholic. When she swings back, her eyes may still be moist when she is smiling luminously again. It's a bit like a rollercoaster ride in a sun-shower.

We all have ups and downs, but not like the Wachsmans: Twins of whom one is severely retarded, the other, classified as intellectually gifted.

The drawn-out murder of a son followed by the weddings of two others and the bar mitzva of a fourth, all within six months; Tribulation and tribulation: the day Esther was supposed to fly in the US for the Shalva ceremony - and a week after her granddaughter was born - she got word that her father had just died.

How does a person endure all this? How does a mother bury one son, then marry off another?

"I put on my wedding mask. These are my sons - I'm very happy for them. And I smile and I laugh and I sing and I dance. And then I go to the bathroom, and I cry. And then I come back and I dance some more." And she is smiling and laughing and crying as she says it.

Israel's own agony aunt has the answers

Dear Ruthie, I miss reading Dear Abby. What should I do?

Dear Ruthie, What should I do? I have a serious problem that I feel only Marge Proops could handle. Any advice?

Dear Ruthie, How can I explain to my relatives abroad what life is REALLY like here?

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Doby: Unsung Hero

Royals' skid hits 10

Robinson, then Doby. It is the story of how major league baseball was twice desegregated in the last half-century, once on the playing field and again, much later, in the manager's office.

It is the story of Larry Doby's life, really. In April 1947, Jackie Robinson became the first black player to appear in a major league game this century. Eleven weeks later, Doby became the second.

In 1975, Frank Robinson became the first black to be hired as a major league manager.

Three years later, Doby became the second. He is history's runner-up, trail blazer No. 2, which, of course, in this country, has consigned Doby to the background while entire shelves of bookstores are stocked with volumes devoted to Jackie Robinson's breaking of baseball's color barrier.

Ted Koppel conducted no town meeting to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Larry Doby's first game with the Cleveland Indians. There is no Larry Doby documentary, no Larry Doby video collection, no Larry Doby hard-bound, glossy commemorative coffee-table picture book.

Doby's share of the anniversary spotlight has been limited to a few "Larry Doby Days" in various big league ballparks and his having served as honorary captain for the American League at Tuesday's All-Star Game at Cleveland.

Which is fine, according to Doby.

Doby always considered Jackie Robinson a friend, not a rival. They spoke often on the phone during that difficult first season of 1947, bolstering one another, comparing stories that might have brought them to tears without such a support system.

"He was the first and deserves all the recognition he received," Doby said of Robinson last month in Arlington, Texas, where he was honored before a Texas Ranger game.

"But when people ask me, 'Did he make it easier for you?' that's stupid. Eleven weeks. People's minds can't be changed in 11 weeks. We still have problems 50 years later."

Doby made his major league debut on July 5, 1947, as a pinch-hitter for the Indians in the first game of a doubleheader against the Chicago White Sox.

He struck out.

But that wasn't the worst of his first day in a big league uniform.

Upon his arrival at the visitors' clubhouse at Comiskey Park, Doby held out his hand to greet his new teammates, and many of them refused it.

Then, when the Indians stepped out onto the field for warmups, Doby stood alone, awkwardly, for five minutes before one of his teammates, Joe Gordon, threw him a baseball and began playing catch with him.

Doby started the second game of the doubleheader, at first base, not his customary position. Like Robinson, Doby was a second baseman.

Doby needed a first baseman's mitt, but the Indians' regular first baseman, Eddie Robinson, refused to lend Doby his. According to Doby, the Indians had to borrow one from



Larry Doby

the White Sox. "Thank God," Doby says 50 years later, for Gordon, catcher Jim Hegan and coach Bill McKechnie — three of the 1947 Indians who helped run interference for him.

"They were very kind, respectful, and tried to make me comfortable," says the 72-year-old Doby. "It was a little tough for them, because maybe your buddy didn't like the black guy. So if your buddy doesn't like that black guy, you better be careful, because you don't want to lose your buddy. Maybe your social status on the team will drop down."

Doby also had an important ally in Indian owner Bill Veeck, who had hand-picked Doby for his assignment, much as Branch Rickey had done with Robinson, and traced him for the

cruel reality that awaited him.

"Bill Veeck told me that these things were going to happen," Doby says. "Now, I'm not going to say to you that I wasn't surprised a lot. But I think the important thing was, I had been warned."

Warned that opposing players would taunt him by cackling from the other dugout. "Hey, shoeshine boy, shine my shoes," or "Porter, carry my bags."

Warned that opposing pitchers would throw at him.

Says Doby, "In the early part of my career, there was a statistic taken comparing Stan Musial, Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams to Doby, Roy Campanella and Robinson. The question was, 'How many times were you hit, compared to Musial, DiMaggio and Williams?' The count came to 165 to 5."

Warned that opposing players would spit at him.

"One of the toughest things that happened to me was, one day I slid into second base and the second baseman spit tobacco juice on me," Doby says. "That's the toughest thing I had to face. The next thing you want to do is grab him and kick his butt — or he'll kick yours, one or the other. But you walk away."

"There was an umpire named Bill Summers, who gave me the greatest respect, who just jumped in between us as soon as this happened. I think I might have reacted physically — and, of course, like Veeck said, 'Anything you do, you're out of here.' And I probably would have been out of there if it wasn't for that umpire."

Doby credits Veeck for carefully shepherding his career — Veeck also hired Doby to manage the Chicago White Sox in 1978 — and likened their relationship to a father and his son.

"I lost my father when I was 8, and I always said that I would've liked my father to be like Bill Veeck," Doby says. "Bill Veeck was a kind man that you'd never question his integrity. You didn't get any political rhetoric. I think maybe now he would be put into a 'liberal' category."

"He's a person I would put all the faith in the world in, a person I trusted. ... I know one thing: It would have been hard to have been successful if I hadn't had a person like him."

Doby spent 13 seasons in the majors — 10 with Cleveland — and finished with a .283 batting average, 253 home runs and 969 RBIs. He led the American League in home runs twice and in RBIs once, played in six All-Star games, had his uniform number retired by the Indians in 1994 and currently serves as an assistant to American League President Gene Budig.

But ask Doby to name the highlight of his baseball career and he'll point to a 49-year-old newspaper photograph of a white Cleveland pitcher, Steve Gromek, planting a kiss on Doby's cheek after Doby had homered to win a game in the 1948 World Series.

"Because that wasn't planned. That wasn't a movie script. It wasn't a thing where 'I'm not going to put my arms around him because he's white' or 'I'm not going to put my arms around him because he's black.'"

"It's emotion. It happened." (Los Angeles Times)

KANSAS CITY (AP) — The Kansas City Royals lost their 10th straight game, one short of the team record, as Frank Thomas' three-run homer led the Chicago White Sox to a 6-2 victory Friday night.

The loss was the second consecutive for Royals manager Tony Muser, who replaced the fired Bob Boone on Wednesday.

Muser did not have much luck with his very first trip to the mound. He brought in Mike Perez to replace starter Jose Rosado with two on and two outs in the seventh and Perez, an eight-year veteran recalled from Triple-A Omaha earlier Friday, watched Thomas hit his first delivery 427 feet for a 6-2 lead.

The Royals, who haven't won since June 27, are one defeat away from tying their club record of 11 consecutive losses in 1986. The White Sox won their fifth straight.

Brewers 3, Orioles 1
Ben McDonald pitched six hitless innings against his former team before leaving with a sore shoulder and ex-Oriole Jack Voigt homered as Milwaukee sent host Baltimore to its fourth straight loss.

McDonald (8-6) threw 99 pitches, facing one batter over the minimum before leaving with a stiff right shoulder.

Yankees 3, Tigers 0
Andy Pettitte extended his shutout streak to 22 innings, and Tino Martinez hit his 30th homer as host New York beat the Tigers for the ninth straight time.

National League					American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	57	32	.640	—	Baltimore	55	31	.640	—
Florida	51	37	.580	5½	New York	50	37	.575	5½
New York	50	38	.568	6½	Toronto	41	44	.482	13½
Montreal	48	39	.552	8	Detroit	41	46	.471	14½
Philadelphia	25	62	.287	31	Boston	39	49	.443	17
Central Division					West Division				
Cleveland	45	45	.500	—	Cleveland	45	37	.549	—
Pittsburgh	43	45	.489	1	Chicago	45	42	.517	2½
St. Louis	42	46	.477	2	Milwaukee	40	44	.478	6
Cincinnati	38	49	.437	5½	Minnesota	38	49	.437	9½
Chicago	38	51	.427	6½	Kansas City	36	48	.429	10
West Division					National League				
San Francisco	51	38	.573	—	Seattle	51	38	.573	—
Los Angeles	47	42	.528	4	Anaheim	46	42	.523	4½
Colorado	44	46	.489	7	Texas	43	44	.494	7
San Diego	39	50	.438	12	Oakland	37	54	.407	15

Friday's NL results: Chicago 7, St. Louis 1; Houston 10, Pittsburgh 0; Philadelphia 13, Florida 3; Montreal 5, Cincinnati 2; NY 9, Atlanta 7; Colorado 6, San Diego 5 (11); Los Angeles 6, San Francisco 2.

Thursday's NL results: St. Louis 3, Chicago 2; Florida 8, Philadelphia 7; Houston 7, Pittsburgh 0; NY 10, Atlanta 7; San Diego 11, Colorado 5; Los Angeles 11, San Francisco 0.

Friday's AL results: Toronto 8, Boston 4; New York 3, Detroit 0; Milwaukee 3, Baltimore 1; Cleveland 5, Minnesota 1; Chicago 6, Kansas City 2; Seattle 8, Texas 7; Anaheim 14, Oakland 4.

Thursday's AL results: Anaheim 8, Oakland 4; Boston 8, Toronto 7 (11); NY 10, Detroit 3; Minnesota 8, Cleveland 2; Chicago 6, Kansas City 3; Seattle 12, Texas 9.

Petite (10-5), coming off a six-hit sboutout at Toronto, allowed six hits in seven innings, struck out four and walked one. His streak is the longest by a Yankees starter since Jimmy Key had 23 scoreless innings from April 5-21, 1993.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Cubs 7, Cardinals 1

Jeremi Gonzalez gave up five hits over 7½ innings and Sammy Sosa hit his 18th homer and drove in four runs as Chicago won at home.

Gonzalez (6-2) allowed one run, struck out four and walked four in his fourth straight victory and second

Mets 9, Braves 7
Pinch-hitter Matt Franco's two-run double highlighted a four-run eighth that carried visiting New York to its fifth straight victory.

New York overcame a 5-1 deficit against Tom Glavine for its 24th comeback win this season.

Rockies 6, Padres 5 (11)
Andres Galarraga drew a bases-loaded walk from San Diego reliever Trevor Hoffman with two outs in the bottom of the 11th inning, and the Colorado Rockies stopped a seven-game losing streak.

Tony Gwynn hit two home runs including a two-run shot with two outs in the Padres ninth that tied it at 5.

Gwynn went 4-for-5 and raised his average to .3988. Colorado's Larry Walker went 1-for-4, lowering him to .3987.



Hideki Irabu

Bronx welcome for Irabu

Hideki Irabu won his first Major League Baseball game on Thursday as the Yankees beat Detroit 10-3.

After pitching into the seventh inning in an impressive debut, Irabu left to a standing ovation at Yankee Stadium.

The crowd of 51,901 applauded him and they should have. The Japanese Nolan Ryan looked unimpressive at times, flashing a fastball that frequently left the Tigers flailing away.

Irabu threw 98 pitches, 61 for strikes, allowed two runs on six hits and struck out nine, eight in the first four innings.

In the right and left field upper decks, fans kept track of the strikeouts with "K" signs, written in Japanese script. Other fans waved a huge, multi-colored Japanese fan.

LEAGUE LEADERS

NATIONAL LEAGUE
BATTING—Gwynn, San Diego, .399; LWalker, Colorado, .398; Kile, Los Angeles, .353; Lofton, Atlanta, .344; Blauser, Atlanta, .344; Joyner, San Diego, .341; Lankford, St. Louis, .332.

RUNS—LWalker, Colorado, 88; Biggio, Houston, 78; Galarraga, Colorado, 66; EYoung, Colorado, 60; Bagwell, Houston, 56; Olorun, New York, 60; Bonds, San Francisco, 60; Gwynn, San Diego, 60.

RBIs—Galarraga, Colorado, 86; Bagwell, Houston, 80; Chones, Atlanta, 74; Gwynn, San Diego, 74; LWalker, Colorado, 73; Alou, Florida, 67; Sosa, Chicago, 66.

HITS—Gwynn, San Diego, 138; LWalker, Colorado, 128; Biggio, Houston, 112; Galarraga, Colorado, 109; Piazza, Los Angeles, 108; Chones, Atlanta, 102; Granderson, Montreal, 101; EYoung, Colorado, 101; Bagwell, Houston, 101; DSanders, Cincinnati, 101.

HOME RUNS—LWalker, Colorado, 26; Bagwell, Houston, 24; Castilla, Colorado, 22; Galarraga, Colorado, 22; Karros, Los Angeles, 22; Hundley, New York, 20; Bonds, San Francisco, 20.

STOLEN BASES—DSanders, Cincinnati, 41; Womack, Pittsburgh, 33; DeShields, St. Louis, 32; EYoung, Colorado, 21; McCracken, Colorado, 19; Clayton, St. Louis, 18; Lofton, Atlanta, 19; LWalker, Colorado, 18.

PITCHING (11 Decisions)—Elias, San Francisco, 12-2, .857, 2.51; Naegele, Atlanta, 12-2, .857, 3.20; Judon, Montreal, 12-2, .848, 3.70; Kile, Houston, 11-3, .786, 2.04; Granderson, Atlanta, 11-3, .786, 2.35; P.Martinez, Montreal, 10-4, .714, 1.74; BJones, New York, 12-5, .706, 3.08.

STRIKEOUTS—Schilling, Philadelphia, 169; P.Martinez, Montreal, 164; AlBenes, St. Louis, 142; Nomo, Los Angeles, 138; Kile, Houston, 125; Kile, Houston, 116; Smoltz, Atlanta, 112.

SAVES—Beck, San Francisco, 29; Nen, Florida, 24; JoFranco, New York, 22; WOrtwell, Los Angeles, 21; Wohler, Atlanta, 20; Collessey, St. Louis, 19; Shaw, Cincinnati, 18.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
BATTING—F.Thomas, Chicago, .372; S.Alomar, Cleveland, .363; Justice, Cleveland, .342; Rodriguez, Texas, .341; M.Vaughn, Boston, .338; E.Martinez, Seattle, .338; Ramirez, Cleveland, .337.

RUNS—Knoblauch, Minnesota, 69; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 67; E.Martinez, Seattle, 67; GarciaParras, Boston, 63; ToClark, Detroit, 62; Durham, Chicago, 62; ARodriguez, Seattle, 62.

RBIs—Griffey Jr., Seattle, 65; T.Martinez, New York, 62; ToClark, Detroit, 64; McGwire, Oakland, 71; JoGonzalez, Texas, 70; Sosa, Chicago, 70; F.Thomas, Chicago, 69.

HITS—(Rodriguez, Texas, 118; GarciaParras, Boston, 109; Greer, Texas, 107; E.Martinez, Seattle, 107; Cora, Seattle, 106; GAnderson, Anaheim, 104; Jeter, New York, 103.

HOME RUNS—McGwire, Oakland, 31; T.Martinez, New York, 30; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 30; Thome, Cleveland, 24; ToClark, Detroit, 23; Buhner, Seattle, 22; M.Vaughn, Boston, 21; JoGonzalez, Texas, 21.

STOLEN BASES—BHunter, Detroit, 44; Nixon, Toronto, 38; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 36; Goodwin, Kansas City, 32; Vazquez, Cleveland, 22; Durham, Chicago, 20; Easley, Detroit, 18.

PITCHING (11 Decisions)—RajJohnson, Seattle, 12-2, .857, 2.20; Moyer, Baltimore, 10-2, .833, 3.28; Moyer, Seattle, 9-2, .818, 4.52; Clemens, Toronto, 13-3, .812, 1.89; Erickson, Baltimore, 12-4, .754, 3.01; Witt, Texas, 10-4, .714, 3.82; Key, Baltimore, 12-5, .706, 2.57.

STRIKEOUTS—RajJohnson, Seattle, 183; Cone, New York, 160; Clemens, Toronto, 140; Mussina, Baltimore, 122; Appier, Kansas City, 118; Fassero, Seattle, 107; B.McDonald, Milwaukee, 106.

SAVES—Riversa, New York, 28; Ramirez, Baltimore, 27; RHernandez, Chicago, 21; DoJones, Milwaukee, 21; Westland, Texas, 18; Taylor, Oakland, 16; Aguilera, Minnesota, 16.

The Flying Benninga Family

Bryan Benninga, one of three field hockey-playing siblings, leads the Dutch men's team at the 15th Maccabiah

By RONALD KOEKOEK

AMSTERDAM — The Dutch men's field hockey team for the Maccabiah Games will lean on the skills of two players who play at the highest level in the Dutch league. They are Bryan Benninga who plays for HGC and Robin de Vries of Amsterdam.

Benninga's career took him from HGC to Amsterdam and back. Benninga started playing hockey at HGC while still a youth. He was already a highly-rated youngster when he made his debut in the derby against local rivals Klein Zwitserland in 1991. Coach Hans Streder added Benninga to his first team when the 18-year-old winger had already represented his country in The Netherlands B and The Netherlands A.

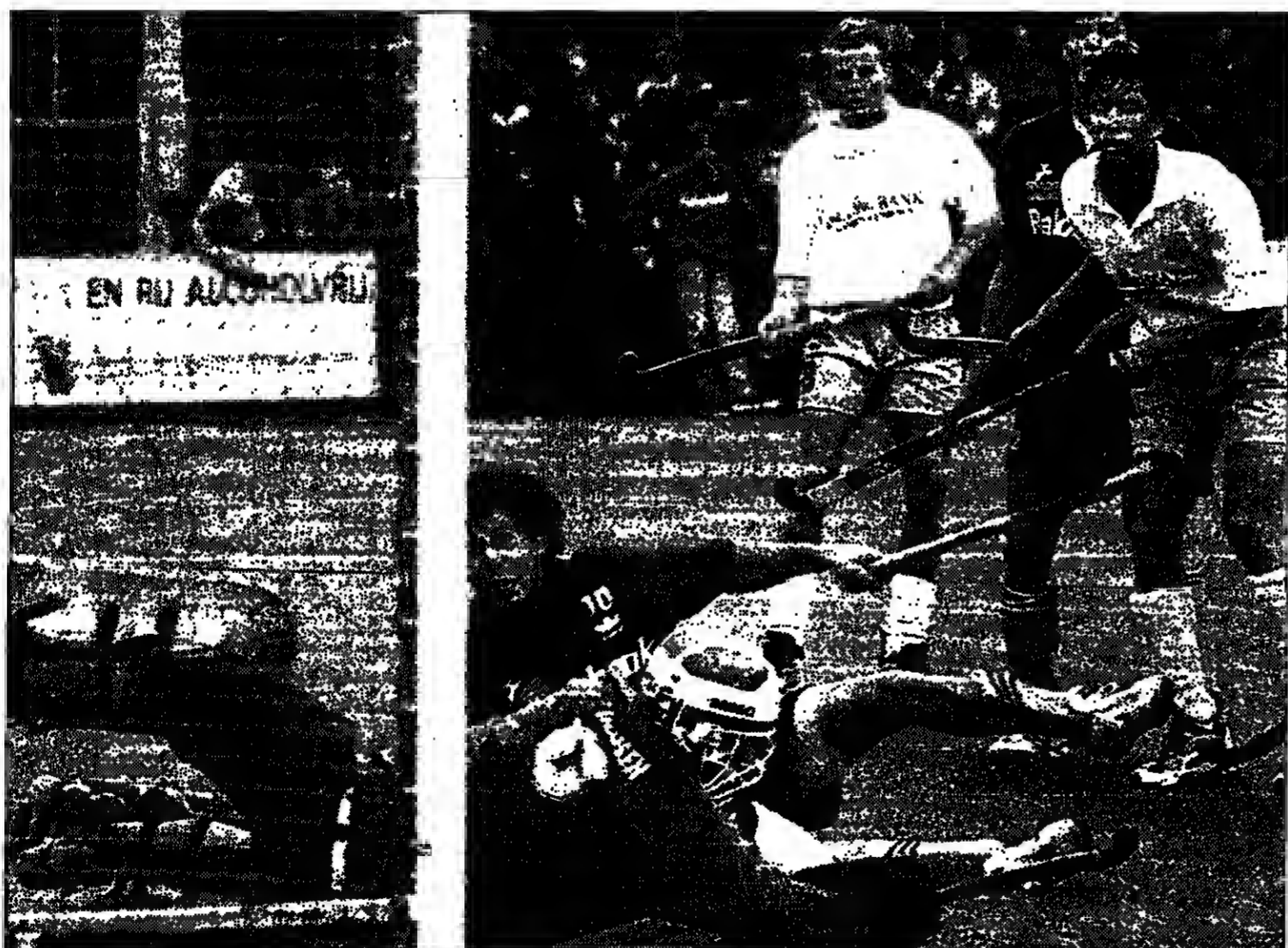
In May, Bryan Benninga lifted the European Cup for champions HGC who beat Harvestahuder of Germany in the final, 4-3.

Benninga is not the only one in his family to play field hockey. His older sister Carina Benninga, who starred for the women's Maccabiah team in 1993, is now the coach of the ladies of Amsterdam. With the national team she won the World Cup in 1983 (Malaysia) and in 1990 (Sydney). Carina Benninga started her career at HDM, a five minutes walk from Bryan's HGC. She is the most-capped player with 158 games for her country.

Their old brother Marc was supposed to be part of the Dutch team as an assistant coach to Joep Breninkmeijer for the meo's team, but the birth of a son changed all that.

Marc Benninga played 53 national games, with the highlight of his career being the capturing of the World Cup in 1990 (Lahtore). He also started playing at HDM. While Carina and Marc became famous in the national team, Bryan hasn't reached higher than the U-21 team.

But Bryan is a seasoned Maccabean. "I have already played twice at the Maccabiah Games. The first one was in 1989, I was only 17 years old when I went to Israel to represent the



CLOSE-IN SKILLS — Bryan Benninga (10) scores for HGC.

Jewish part of my country. Andries Versteeg who played with premier league team HDM was the only player who was really good. There were about five players from Laren and Gooische in the selection, but the rest of us were all playing in lower teams. All the players were older than me, I was still a schoolboy but I already played in the national youth and I trained with the first team of HGC."

The Dutch lost to South Africa in the final "but I was very happy with the silver medal."

Four years later, the Dutch met

South Africa again in the finals. "This time we won the gold medal. It was all very close. After 70 minutes (of regulation) there was still a 1-1 score and no one scored in extra time. We beat them as we were better at the penalty stroke."

Benninga believes his team will win again, with a lot of competition from Australia.

The whole team is trying hard to get used to playing on pure grass. Some of the top flight teams have water-based pitches, but most of us make do on sand. The team prepared for Israel on the grass of

Xeosis Amsterdam, and feels ready. One thing they find more difficult to adjust to is the weather. Hot and humid is not something the team is used to, "but we will have to adjust," Benninga said.

Speaking of his fear of traveling to Israel, he said, "I have to admit that I was a frightened when I played at the Maccabiah Games of 1989. There had just been a lot of terrorism in Israel and I did not feel comfortable with the idea of going there while something might happen to me."

"And the situation in Israel is not like the situation in The

Netherlands, but the security in Israel so tight that nothing will ever happen to the participants of the Maccabiah Games. I experienced that four years ago, everything had to be checked when our team arrived at the airport. Copies of our passports had already been sent to Israel so that the organization could tell exactly who will come to the Maccabiah Games."

The whole delegation will arrive early in Israel. "Since we will not see too much of each other during the Games, we will all first spend one week together in Israel, not to

adapt to local climate but just to see something of the country. I hope to see a lot of Israel, it is an impressive thought that almost every brick has its own background or value. To me, the background of the Maccabiah Games makes it a beautiful event.

"It is very good to see how all these people from around the world come to play. I remember when the Russians were allowed to compete. This was four years ago, and they had not left their country until that moment. The crowd was tremendous when the Russian team walked into the stadium at the opening-ceremony. Everybody cheered and there was a great excitement in the stadium."

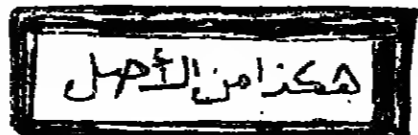
Each member of the team has to pay his own way to the Games. There are some sponsors that contribute to the Dutch delegation but most of the expenses are borne by the participants.

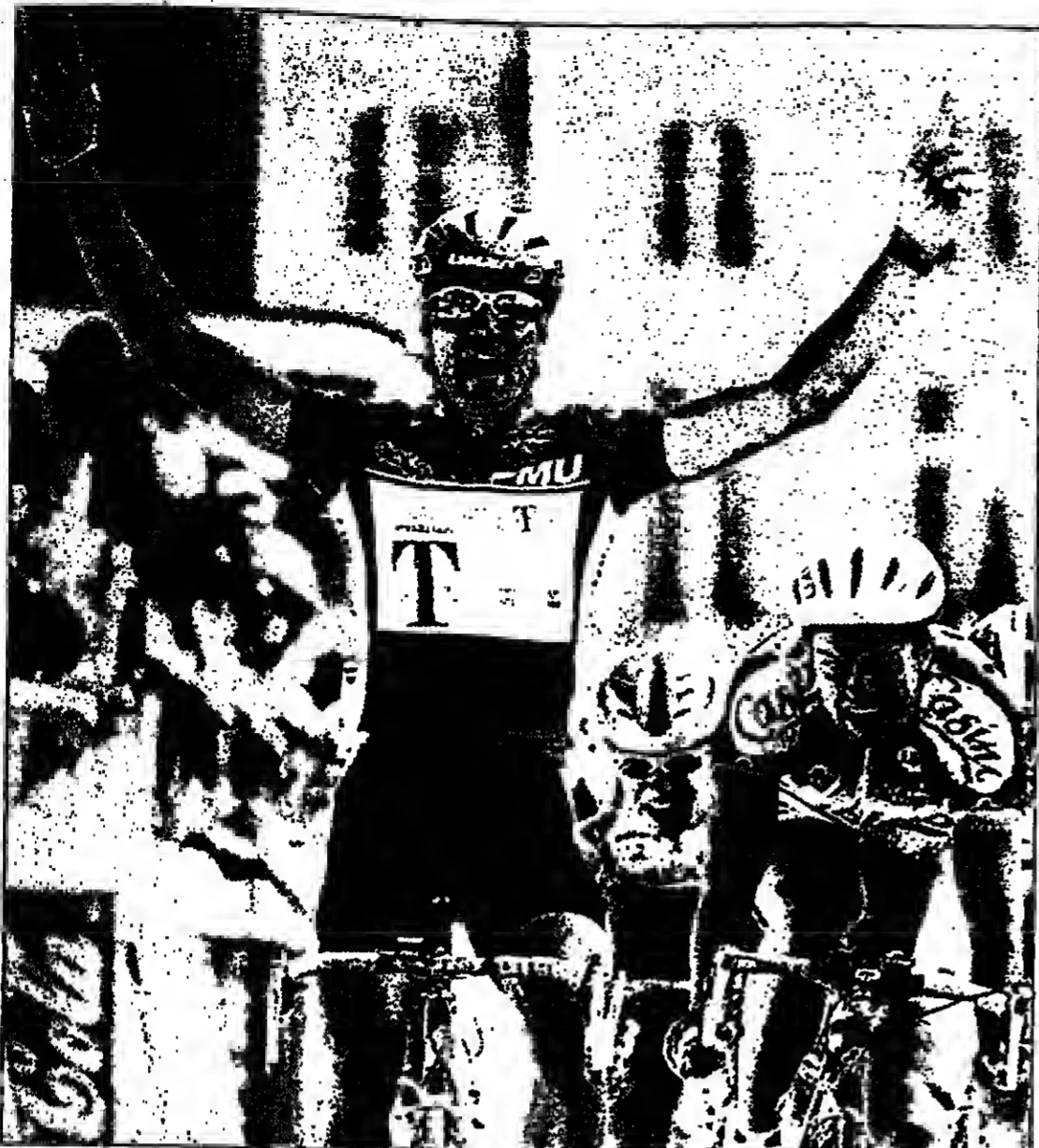
The team that will travel to Israel is very young. Benninga is one of the oldest players in the team, Nathan Vecht is also playing at HGC while Robin de Vries spends most of his time on the bench of Amsterdam. Vecht and De Vries bring some experience of playing in the Premier League and that will be necessary with all those youngsters who'll need a helping hand.

The Dutch team for the Maccabiah Games 1997. Robin de Vries (Amsterdam, Amstelveen), Ralph de Vries (Amsterdam), Ralph Robert Manheim (Amsterdam), Floris Akkerman (Bloemendaal, Bloemendaal), Sander Groenteman (Delfste Studenten, Delft).

Also, Niels Rehe (Gooische, Bussum), Nathan Vecht (HGC, Wassenaar), Bryan Benninga (HGC), Kristiaan Timman (Hurley, Amstelveen), Thijs Kerkhof (MOP, Vught), Daniel Blocq (Pinoke, Amstelveen), Sander van Raalte (Pinoke), Roderick Friend (Stichtse, Bilthoven), Coen Leonard Frank (Stichtse), Gihon van Maarsen (Tilburg, Tilburg), Robert Paul Lankhout (Voordaan, Groenekan).

Coach: Joep Breninkmeyer. Manager: Els Kodde.





SPRINT FINISH - Erik Zabel of Germany celebrates as he wins the Tour de France's seventh stage yesterday.

Zabel wins stage as Cipollini, Gotti drop out

BORDEAUX (AP) - A day after being disqualified from a stage victory, Erik Zabel took the seventh stage of the Tour de France yesterday when two top Italian riders followed the growing list of dropouts.

Estonia's Jaan Kirisipuu was second ahead of the Netherlands' Jeroen Blijlevens, who won Friday's stage after Zabel was put last.

Cedric Vasseur stayed in the overall lead.

Mario Cipollini, who won the first two stages and was the overall leader for four days, dropped out less than halfway through the 194-kilometer (120.5-mile) leg from Marennes to Bordeaux. He had injured a knee in one of the falls of Friday.

Cipollini was expected to drop out before the mountains, as he had done before in the Tour de France. One of the best sprinters, he does not like to cycle in the mountains.

Ivan Gotti, who won the Tour of Italy this year, also did not start

the seventh stage because of a sprained neck.

Cipollini and Gotti thus join Tony Rominger, Alex Zuelle and Yevgeny Berzin on the sidelines of the race after the first week of the Tour that ends in Paris July 27. Rominger and Berzin broke collarbones in falls while Zuelle was held up a number of times in the mass falls that have plagued the Tour.

Also out of the race are Tom Steels and Djamolidin Abdoujaparov. Steels was kicked out for throwing a water bottle at another rider in Friday's stage. Abdoujaparov tested positive for drugs after the second stage but the results became known Friday.

Today's stage from Sauternes to Pau, 161.5 km (100m) is the last flat stage before the Pyrenees. The riders spend a few days in the mountains then another stage before a rest day on Thursday in St. Etienne. There is the first major time trial on Friday in St. Etienne.

Sixth stage

Jeroen Blijlevens was declared the winner of the sixth stage on

Friday after organizers took Erik Zabel's apparent victory away and placed him last for the stage.

Zabel was disqualified for hindering some of the other sprinters early in the final sprint although his final meters were relatively clear.

The ousted Abdoujaparov of Uzbekistan, who tested positive after the second stage, had won 9 previous stages of the Tour de France, all in sprint finishes. He was 149th in the overall standings.

Abdoujaparov, one of the most powerful sprinters of the pack with muscular thighs, was originally third the stage behind Zabel then was moved to second before the announcement.

The last doping scandal in the Tour happened in 1988.

Steels of Belgium was the first rider to be completely thrown out of the race for "a violent gesture" according to the Tour de France officials.

Steels, another of the top sprinters, was jockeying for position when he suddenly threw his water bottle in the direction of Frenchman Frederic Moncassin, who came in fifth in the stage. Steels, who was buried in the pack, was credited with 124th, before his number was taken down.

Hill has car, media problems

SILVERSTONE (AP) - Damon Hill's season keeps getting worse.

His Arrows-Yamaha has given him trouble all year, leaving the defending world champion without a point in eight races. Now the British tabloid press is giving him problems, too.

Hill was 20th of 22 cars in practice Friday for today's British Grand Prix. That was bad enough, a miserable homecoming in Britain where he was a national hero eight months ago after winning the world title with Williams-Renault.

It got even worse when he was swarmed over

in the team's motor home by dozens of reporters chasing rumors he was being fired by team owner Tom Walkinshaw.

The usually affable Hill grabbed a tabloid reporter by the shoulders and showed him the door.

Formula One is a perpetual rumor mill, and the British Grand Prix always provides grist. It's the mid-way race of the season, bringing together most of the powerbrokers in what is mostly a British-race sport.

On Thursday, Hill binned to reporters he would leave Arrows unless Walkinshaw landed

a more powerful engine. Walkinshaw shot back in a story reported in almost every paper that Hill was the problem - not the engine.

They both tried to recant Friday.

"I don't want to let anyone down and the extra motivation factor I was talking about yesterday (Thursday) was the one that grows from being in front. Tom has told me he was misquoted and I am 100 per cent behind the team," Hill said.

"As far as racing goes, I don't want to be fourth or sixth, I want to be first and that's where the frustration comes," Hill added.

15th MACCABIAH Strug wants to explore Jewish roots

By HEATHER CHAIT

Olympic gold medal-winner, gymnast Kerri Strug, in her first appearance here, showed her composure and self-assuredness at her Tel Aviv press conference last night.

Strug, on her first visit outside the US since her 1996 Olympic laurels, expressed an interest about delving into her Jewish roots.

"I need to learn more about my history and become more involved now," the 19-year-old said.

Strug, heavily involved in coaching and charitable work, will hand out the gymnastics medal at the 15th Maccabiah. Coincidentally, Strug's roommate from UCLA, Deborah Mink, will be competing in the gymnastics competition.

Strug captured the hearts and minds of the world when, after injuring her leg at the end of her Olympic performance, she had to be carried by her coach Bela

Karolyi to the victory podium.

Maccabiah mania

So great is the interest in the sold-out opening ceremony of the 15th Maccabiah tomorrow night that 30,000 people requested tickets to last night's dress rehearsal in Ramat Gan.

This was one of the statistics revealed at a pre-Games press conference on Friday at Kfar Maccabiah attended by all the officials.

For the first time, a four-person delegation from Cuba is here to compete, bringing to 53 the number of nations.

A spinoff of the 5,500 athletes are 20,000 tourists expected to flood the country with the epicenter of the action in Netanya, aka the 'Maccabiah Village.'

Logistically, the athletes will be housed in 31 hotels from Metulla to Ashdod, 29,000 meals will be prepared and 600 mobile phones have

been allocated.

The ages of the contestants range from a 10-year-old table tennis player to a 75-year-old triathlete, both competing in the Open division, and not in the Junior or Masters respectively.

Maccabi World Union President Ronald Bakalaz said the athletes come to know their roots and to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people. "Israel is the centrality of our future," he said.

Supporting his statement is the fact that 66 of the 1997 US Maccabiah athletes participated as youths in the American JCC Maccabi Games.

Barak Yerucham, Chairman of the Sports Department, presented a detailed schedule of the sports events which include 35 competitions in the Open division, 11 in the Juniors, 9 in the Masters and 3 in the Disabled.

The most popular events are

expected to be men's basketball, rugby, swimming, tennis, track and field and volleyball.

Tonight, there will be a salute to the Maccabiah guests at Jerusalem's Sultan Pool. The event, which will feature speeches by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and MK Moshe Katsav, and entertainment by the IDF choir and several dance groups, will begin at 9 pm. For ticket information, telephone 671-5932.

Today's Schedule

Basketball 18:00, Neve Monosson; Turkey-Mexico, Germany-Venezuela; Chess 15:00, Jerusalem Gate Hotel; Cricket, 10:00, Ashdod Stadium; Australia-GB; Rugby 17:00, Wingate; Australia-Argentina, GB-USA, Israel-Canada, S. Africa-France; Soccer 19:00 TA University; USA-Great Britain, Denmark-Brazil; Tennis 16:00, Ramat Hasharon Tennis Center.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.06 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 620.65 per line, including VAT, per month.

JERUSALEM
Conducted Tours
HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Tours of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from the Britman Reception Center, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses 4s, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 5882819.
HADASSAH, Visit the Hadassah installations, Chagall Windows, Tel. 02-6418333, 02-6776271.

TEL AVIV
Museums

TEL AVIV MUSEUM, Andres Serrano: The Morgue, Soviet Photography from the Museum collection, Lucian Freud: selection of works, Tzvi Hecker: Surfboard, Portraits: By a group of Israeli artists, Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art.

HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Shlomo Ben-David and Arnon Ben-David, The Inverted Campaign, Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-8.

HAIFA
WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

Aussies thrash English

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Australia brought England's contingent of triumphant British Lions down to earth with a convincing 25-6 win in a one-off rugby union test yesterday.

The Wallabies ran in four tries without reply at the Sydney Football Stadium to depress England coach Jack Rowell's spirits in what could prove to be his last match in charge.

Australia dominated for virtually the whole match against a side featuring 12 players who helped the Lions to secure a 2-1 series win against South Africa last week.

Despite their overwhelming superiority, the home side led only 8-6 early in the second half before winger Ben Tune, scrum-half George Gregan and fly-half Tim Horan scored tries to add some realism to the scoreline.

It was Horan's first try since his switch from the centers by Wallaby coach Greg Smith this season.

The margin of victory would

have been even greater but for a mediocre kicking display by Australia captain and lock John Eales, who missed one conversion and three penalty attempts.

Rowell, whose contract expires next month, saw his team defend resolutely but offer little threat in attack in front of a crowd of just over 40,000.

England - Tim Stimpson; John Bentley, Phil de Glanville (captain), Nick Greenstock, Nick Beal; Mike Catt, Matthew Dawson (Austin Healy, 40th); Tim Rodber, Richard Hill (Ben Clarke, 69th), Lawrence Dallaglio, Simon Shaw, Nigel Redman, Darren Garforth, Mark Regan, Graham Rowntree. Australia - Matthew Burke; Joe Roff, Jason Little, James Holbeck, Ben Tuoe; Tim Horan, George Gregan; Troy Coker (Matt Cockbain, 36th), Brett Robinson, Daniel Mann, John Eales (captain), Garrick Morgan, Cameron Blades, Michael Foley, Ewen McKenzie (Andrew Blades, 65th).

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Sunday, July 13
EMERGENCY PHARMACIES
Jerusalem: Clal Pharm, 22 Kanfei Neshanim, 851-0485; Baisam, Selah e-Din, 827-2315; Shualat, Shuaflat Road, 581-0108; Dar Alkawa, Herod's Gate, 626-2058.
Tel Aviv: Pharma Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gviri, 546-2040; Superpharm, 40 Einshin, 641-3730; Tel Aviv, 546-2040; Tel Aviv, 641-3730; Ramat Aviv, 40 Einshin, 641-3730; London Ministry Superpharm, 4 Sha'ul Hameloch, 699-0115.
Tel Ananah-Kfar Savat: Kupat Holim, Chalk, 8 Haroshet, Hod Hasharon, 748-1175.
Netanya: Govat, 14 She'ar Hagai, 882-2895.
Haifa: Habankim, 5 Habankim, 951-3005.
Krayot area: Kupat Holim Clal Zevulun, 192 Derech Akko, Krayot Baik, 678-7818.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazon, 6 Maskit (nr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Jerusalem: Shaare Zedek (Internal, ENT); Bikur Holim (surgery); Hadassah Mt. Scopus (orthopedics, obstetrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (pediatrics, ophthalmology).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

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FIRE 102
FIRST AID 101

Magen David Adom in emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition: In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:
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Beer Sheva: 6274767 Netanya: 8604444
Beit Shimon: 8283133 Petah Tikva: 9311111
Dan Region: 6793333 Rehovot: 9401933
Eilat: 8329444 Ra'anana: 9642333
Haifa: 8912233 Salfed: 6823333
Jerusalem: 6523133 Tel Aviv: 5460111
Karmiel: 6958444 Tiberias: 6792444
* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-9205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.
Eran - Emotional First Aid - 1201, also Jerusalem 581-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth 546-0739), Rishon LeZion 956-8661/2, Haifa 967-2222, Beer Sheva 649-4333, Netanya 862-6110, Karmiel 988-8770, Kfar Crissa Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5, 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.
Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133 (also in Russian), 07-637-6310, 08-865-0506 (also in Amharic).
Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.
Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service 02-624-7676).

Surrey win B&H Cup

LONDON (Reuters) - Surrey achieved one of the most comprehensive victories in the history of Benson and Hedges Cup finals when they beat Kent by eight wickets at Lord's yesterday.

Needing 213 in 50 overs, the favorites cruised home with five overs to spare. Ben Holliscoke, who made 98 off 112 balls, set up victory with his second-wicket stand of 159 with Alec Stewart (75 not out). It was the first time Surrey had won since 1974.

Holding the purse strings

LAS VEGAS (AP) - In the wake of the Mike Tyson-Evander Holyfield fight, Nevada passed a law Friday that allows the state to seize the entire purse of unsportsmanlike boxers.

The measure was pushed through the Legislature following the June 28 heavyweight title fight between Holyfield and Tyson, who was disqualified in the third round for biting the champ's ears.

ME AND MY PAL - Gold medal gymnast Olympic Kerri Strug holds the 15th Maccabiah mascot.



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<p>PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS - All rates include VAT:</p> <p>Single Weekday - NIS 134.55 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 13.45</p> <p>FRIDAY ANO HOLIDAY EVE - NIS 210.00 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 21.00</p> <p>TWO FRIDAYS - NIS 351 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 35.10</p> <p>MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY (package) - NIS 432.90 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 30.42</p> <p>WEEK RATE (8 insertions) - NIS 432.90 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 43.29</p> <p>FOUR FRIDAYS (package) - NIS 655.75 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 55.57</p> <p>MONTHLY (24 insertions) - NIS 1053 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 105.30</p> <p>Rates are valid until AUG 31 1997.</p>	<p>DWELLINGS Jerusalem Area</p> <p>HOLIDAY RENTALS</p> <p>NEAR JERUSALEM THEATER, 73 m., 3 + small office, terrace, fully furnished, kosher, 12 steps up, no smoking, sleeps 2 adults, single bed + crib, pull-out couch, \$1000. For 8 months - year. Tel. 02-581-7854, Fax. 02-586-9118. E-mail: debabs@post.co.il</p> <p>RENTALS</p> <p>HAPALMACH / HATAYASIM - 4 - owner's deluxe, fully furnished & equipped, September 1, annual or monthly, magnificent view, quiet. Tel. 02-671-4202, 050-291-629 (NS).</p> <p>HARAV BERLIN, 3, fully furnished & equipped, 5 large, terrace, view, elevator, central a/c, luxurious. Tel. 02-671-4202, 050-291-629 (NS).</p> <p>SALES</p> <p>GERMAN COLONY, LARGE, unique 2.3 or 4, Basement, garden, immediate (no commissions), DIVIROLI SIANI, Tel. 02-561-2424.</p> <p>RAMAT SHARRET, BEAUTIFUL penthouse, 5 large, terrace, view, elevator, "BATTI" Tel. 02-625-9288.</p> <p>DWELLINGS Tel Aviv</p> <p>SALES</p> <p>AZOREI CHEN, LUXURIOUS, 5 + balcony, double parking, country club, YAL REALTOR (Malkin), Tel. 03-954-0994, 03-338-128.</p> <p>DWELLINGS Sharon Area</p> <p>SALES/RENTALS</p> <p>HERZLIYA PITUAH, Kfar Shimariya, for sale/rent, luxurious villa, Long term, Immediate. Tel. 03-954-0994, 03-338-128.</p> <p>DWELLINGS Haifa and North</p> <p>SALES</p> <p>HADERA, BEAUTIFUL SUN-FILLED penthouse, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, in brand new project, wonderful sea view, across from beach, immediate, great price. Tel. 02-633-8244 (eve), or 050-245065 (Sat).</p>	<p>DWELLINGS Eilat and South</p> <p>SALES</p> <p>ARAD - BEAUTIFUL VILLA, 6, luxurious, 200 sq.m., immediate. Tel. 07-997-1234, 07-997-7337, 050-332-234.</p> <p>SITUATIONS VACANT Tel Aviv</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <p>KOREAN SPEAKERS WANTED for permanent job in Ramat Gan! High salary! Call Michal at 03-576-9255.</p> <p>HOUSEHOLD HELP</p> <p>SOUTH AFRICAN AU PAIR AGENCY Israel based, requires many South African/other girls, live-in eu pairs country-wide. Top conditions + high salary. Wonderful job opportunities. Tel. 03-619-0423.</p> <p>IMMEDIATE JOBS AVAILABLE, friendliest families, best conditions, the agency with a heart for the Au Pairs. Call Hilda, Tel. (03) 965-6937.</p> <p>METAPLET, PLEASANT FAMILY, high salary - Live-in / live-out. Good conditions. Tel. 03-537-1036.</p> <p>SITUATIONS VACANT Sharon Area</p> <p>HOUSEHOLD HELP</p> <p>WOMAN WITH REFERENCES for cleaning and child care. 5 days weekly, split shift, in Herzliya. Tel. 09-956-3233.</p> <p>WOMAN WITH REFERENCES for cleaning and child care. 5 days weekly, split shift, in Herzliya. Tel. 09-956-3233.</p> <p>VEHICLES General</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <p>ARIE PALOGGE QUALITY NEW & USED CARS TAX FREE & UNRESTRICTED Buying • Selling • Trading • Leasing Celebrating 20 Years Countrywide Service Tel. 052-240-977, Tel/Fax. 02-662-3785</p>

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table listing Israeli shares in New York with columns for company name, last price, and change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ sections.

Table listing various technology and software companies with columns for company name, last price, and change.

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WALL STREET REPORT

Dow up on lower rates

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks moved back near record territory Friday as interest rates fell to their lowest level of the year amid further indications that inflationary pressures have eased.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 35 points to nearly 7,922 after retreating from a 68-point gain that had put the blue-chip barometer within 45 points of the 8,000 mark.

The technology-rich Nasdaq composite index broke above 1,500 for the first time in its seventh straight record finish as personal computer stocks rallied in the aftermath of Thursday's strong earnings report by Compaq Computer.

Other broad market measures pulled back from larger gains that would have left most at record highs.

The producer prices data gave a lift to the inflation-sensitive bond market. Yields on the 30-year Treasury bond - a key influence on long-term borrowing costs, fell to 6.52 percent, the lowest level since late December.

Continuing the early trend of generally strong second-quarter results, Chrysler beat analyst forecasts by a small margin.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 35.06 to 7,921.82, up 26.01 for the week, but about 40 points shy of Tuesday's record finish at 7,962.31.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by an 11-to-7 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,750 up, 1,108 down and 571 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 499.88 million shares, vs. 551.28 million in the previous session.

The Standard and Poor's 500-stock list rose 2.88 to 916.66, and the NYSE composite index rose 1.85 to 478.12, leaving both measures slightly shy of Tuesday's record highs.

WALL STREET WEEK

What comes after 8,000?

By BRUCE MEYERSON

NEW YORK (AP) - The debate is not so much whether the Dow Jones industrial average will cross the 8,000 mark, but whether that milestone will serve as a new blastoff point, a grazing pasture or a cliff.

If this past week's early whiffs from General Electric, Compaq Computer and Motorola are any indication, the impending crush of second-quarter earnings reports should be good enough to put the Dow, which finished the week at 7,921.82, over the top.

To begin with, the atmosphere is a lot more upbeat than a year ago, when the market tumbled after a barrage of corporate profit warnings.

"Companies are so careful to warn about earnings disappointments, and I don't sense there's been an unusually wide number of warnings this time," said Eric Miller, chief strategist at Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette Securities in San Francisco, noting that aside from Intel, "there haven't been that many key companies waving caution flags."

But even if the markets make it through this earnings season without any horrific surprises, by historical standards investors are already paying top dollar for their share of these purportedly healthy profits.

Even with a strong second-quarter performance, another rally would push the ratio of share price to earnings - one of the most popular mea-

asures of market valuations - beyond traditional comfort levels.

"It's gotten beyond the realm of predictability. All the technical indicators are off the map. One by one they've fallen by the wayside," said Richard Dickson, a market analyst at Scott and Stringfellow in Richmond, Virginia. "I don't know what to look at to say this thing is overdone. It'll go down when it's ready to go down. Sooner or later, people will say, 'It's too high, I won't pay that much.' But tell me when that time will be."

From a technical standpoint, in fact, many experts say this bull market is behaving more like an animal that's about to embark on a stampede than settle down for a rest.

Notably, the Dow's record-setting advance has frequently been accompanied by heavy volume and growing interest in mid-sized and smaller companies.

The implication is that more investors are venturing beyond the perceived safety of the blue-chip sector as they search for value in a pricey market. That type of surge in investor confidence can result in what's called a "melt-up" or a "buying panic."

The market could sustain itself above 8,000 if, as some analysts contend, the advance is more gradual and the current combination of surprisingly low inflation and tame interest rates persists, justifying a more generous price-to-earnings multiple.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table listing international shares in New York with columns for company name, last price, and change.

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Key Representative Rates

Table showing key representative rates for US Dollar, Sterling, and Mark.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table showing New York market indexes including DJ Industrial, DJ Transport, and NYSE Composite.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table showing other market indexes including FTSE 100, Tokyo Nikkei, and Hang Seng.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table showing dollar crossrates for various currencies like Pound, Swiss Franc, and Japanese Yen.

US COMMODITIES

Table showing US commodity prices for items like Oil, Gold, and Silver.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table showing London commodity prices for items like Oil, Gold, and Silver.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table showing spot market metal prices for Gold, Silver, and Platinum.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table showing New York metal futures prices for Gold, Silver, and Platinum.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table showing London metal fix prices for Gold, Silver, and Platinum.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA

Advertisement for data communications via ABA, featuring Commstock Trading Ltd. and listing services like Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds, and Mutual Funds.

Tel Aviv shares data

Table listing Tel Aviv shares data for various companies like Alcatel, BSA, and Bank Leumi.

Pacific Mediterranean Capital Markets Group

Advertisement for Pacific Mediterranean Capital Markets Group, listing services like Stock broking, Equity & macro research, Money management, and Corporate finance.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

FTSE up again

LONDON - Shares closed higher for a third straight session, as a continuing robust performance on Wall Street helped drag the FTSE 100 index of blue chip stocks within striking distance of its record high.

The FTSE 100 closed at 4,799.5, up 31.7 points, or 0.66 percent.

There was a fall of 13.3 points from last week.

FRANKFURT - Germany's IBIS DAX ended computer dealings at a fresh record high of 4,074.30 points, up 73.65 points, or 1.84%, as the market found renewed hope from Wall Street gains and the dollar trading at 71-month highs against the mark.

In earlier trade the DAX-30 index closed at 4,040.97, an increase of 48.59 points, or 1.22%, giving a rise of 98.44 on the week.

CURRENCY REPORT

Dollar at 5 1/2-year high against mark

By RICK GLADSTONE

NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar hit a 5 1/2-year high against the mark Friday and surged in most other dealings, one day after weakening on Bundesbank warnings about the need for a strong German currency.

Traders attributed the rally to a reassessment of the Bundesbank comments, healthy US economic data, new signs of German economic weakness and safe-haven buying of dollars because of Southeast Asian currency instability.

A strong advance in the British pound also helped. Sterling's rally propelled it to the strongest level against the mark in more than six years and indirectly helped pull the dollar higher.

Demand for the dollar intensified as it surpassed important technical levels against the mark.

"The market just came back and started to buy dollars," said Jesse Torres, vice president and chief dealer at the New York branch of Bank Austria. "The US

is the place to be now. It's promising, with no overall negative factors."

The dollar closed at 1.7744 marks, its high for the day and strongest level since December 1991, up 1.3 percent from its 1.7515-mark rate Thursday and up 15.1 percent for the year. The dollar cost 114.02 yen, up from 113.18 yen.

Source: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 12-JUL-92) *In local currencies

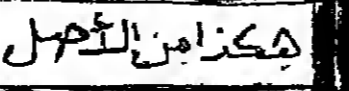
ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table showing Israeli money market rates for various currencies and terms.

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (11.7.97)

Table showing shekel foreign exchange rates for various currencies like US Dollar, German Mark, and Japanese Yen.

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



NEWS

in brief

Court rejects petition against Ne'eman

The High Court of Justice on Friday dismissed a petition calling for Ya'acov Ne'eman to be relieved of his post as finance minister because of alleged illegal activities during the Likud's election campaign. Journalist Yoav Yitzhak, who petitioned the court, charged that Ne'eman had laundered funds from abroad and had been promised a cabinet position in return by Binyamin Netanyahu. But the court upheld the state's position that there were no grounds for indicting Ne'eman. However, it did not order Yitzhak to pay court costs, as requested by the state.

Basheva Tsor

Sara Netanyahu tapes kept by ex's lawyer

Tape-recordings of conversations between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's wife, Sara, and her first husband, Doron Neuberger, are being kept by Neuberger's attorney, Avigdor Feldman, until a hearing on the matter in the Ramat Gan Family Court on Tuesday. This was agreed between the two parties on Friday, a day after Netanyahu asked the court to order Neuberger to deposit the tapes in its safe.

Neuberger has said he made five tapes with his former wife's knowledge as part of an effort to revive their marriage, but Netanyahu says they were secretly recorded. Neuberger is talking about writing a book about his life with the prime minister's wife.

Itim

Taiba women remanded for murder

Dalal and Sana Ghenam, sisters from Taiba in their 20s, were remanded for 10 days on Friday by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, on suspicion they murdered 85-year-old Berta Klein on Thursday in a nursing home in Ramat Efal, where the two worked. Police say that one of the sisters has scratches on her face, and the two are giving different explanations for the scratches.

Both sisters' fingerprints were found on the dead woman's body. Judge Gavriel Strasman also was given classified information, which he said seemed to connect them directly to the murder, and ordered them remanded.

Itim

Arson suspected in Tel Aviv hotel blaze

A homeless ex-convict, 53, was arrested on Friday on suspicion of setting fire to the Europa Hotel on Tel Aviv's Rehov Aliehy that morning. The suspect, known to police for previous acts of arson, told investigators he had become frustrated and set fire to his second-floor room when his girlfriend failed to show up for a date. Two guests and a policeman were lightly injured in the blaze, which destroyed the hotel's second floor and took three firefighting units to put out.

Itim

Two arrested for drug offenses

An Ashdod resident was arrested yesterday afternoon after police found 17 kilograms of marijuana in his car. Police also arrested a Nazareth resident, in possession of around two kilograms of hashish and heroin worth hundreds of thousands of shekels, near the Lebanese border on Friday night. Police said the man had been arrested two months ago in the same area with a kilogram and a half of heroin and a court had placed him under house arrest.

Itim

Man wins NIS 7m. in Lotto

A 35-year-old resident of the North won NIS 7 million in last week's Lotto drawing, one week after visiting the Galilee graves of noted rabbis to pray for help in earning a livelihood and to pray for his family's health. "And Inok, God answered my plea," said the married father of two. "I am married eight years and I never felt what it is like to have my own home. The first thing I'm going to do is buy my own home," said the man.

Itim

Defense: Jordanian killer of schoolgirls 'mentally ill'

News agencies

MARJ AL-HAMAM, Jordan - Defense lawyers urged a military court yesterday to acquit a Jordanian soldier charged with premeditated murder of seven Israeli schoolgirls, pleading he was mentally ill and not responsible for his act.

"The defendant is innocent due to lack of criminal responsibility as a result of his mental sickness, and is innocent due to lack of responsibility because of his mental state which negates consciousness and will," defense lawyer Hussein Majalli, head of a 92-member defense team, told a public hearing in his four-hour closing argument.

The defendant, Cpl. Ahmed Dakamsa, 26, is on trial for gunning down the girls on March 13 at Naharayim island on the Jordan River.

Majalli said Dakamsa has a history of psychological troubles which made him unaccountable for his actions. Dakamsa is charged with pre-

meditated murder, a crime punishable by mandatory death sentence, possibly by a firing squad. He would face a prison sentence if the court finds that he was mentally unstable.

The prosecution says Dakamsa was a callous criminal who long harbored an intent to kill Israelis and had his opportunity in March.

Their case rests on knocking down the defense argument that he was a pious man suffering from a mental illness, who shot the girls in a blind fury because they teased him at prayer.

"What is clear from the evidence is that the sick state of Dakamsa - anti-personality disorder - does not allow him to plan, and use his mind as it is characterized by immediate action," Majalli said.

The defense said the prosecution was seeking a tougher sentence than even Israel would have carried out.

Majalli accused the prosecution and the top military investigators who interrogated Dakamsa of leveling charges against him before

gathering evidence, then tailoring what they got hold of to match the charges by concealing evidence and forging statements.

He cited Dakamsa's own written testimony, dated March 13, the day of the shooting, saying its legal language went beyond the intellectual ability of a simple peasant soldier.

"If one hides one thing, one hides other things and if the prosecution forged this, it means it applies to everything else they have done," said Majalli.

Dakamsa's testimony was not legally binding because it was extracted under pressure and the influence of drugs he was given, Majalli said, adding the investigators "cajoled and terrorized" Dakamsa to secure a "unlawful confession." The defense also said that investigators with no judicial background were chosen, the presence of more than one investigative body, and items of evidence submitted.

"This lawsuit can rightly be described in the history of Jordanian justice as the oul and

void lawsuit," said Majalli.

Majalli also cited an order to set up an investigation team by the chief of staff during the shooting, although he was outside the country. Under Jordanian law, this means that the commander cannot exercise authority.

Majalli disputed the prosecution's case that Dakamsa had carefully prepared for the shooting, saying he had been serving along border posts at close proximity to Israelis for many years.

In the seven-week trial, the court has heard that Dakamsa suffered a personality disorder and that he was on tranquilizers the day of the shooting. But while prosecution psychiatrists say the disorder did not cause mental instability, defense medical experts said such a condition could make patients unconscious of their acts. Dakamsa's family says the soldier had fits of rage and tried to commit suicide several times in the past 15 years.

The verdict is expected next week.

WEATHER

Haifa 22-30, Tiberias 24-35, Atula 22-34, Samaria 19-30, Tel Aviv 24-30, Jerusalem 18-29, Beersheba 21-32, Dead Sea 27-38, Eilat 28-39

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. No change in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Weather	
Amsterdam	13	55	27 81	clear
Berlin	14	57	24 75	partly cloudy
Buenos Aires	21	70	26 79	clear
Cairo	23	73	26 87	clear
Chicago	18	61	29 84	partly cloudy
Copenhagen	12	59	29 72	cloudy
Frankfurt	14	57	27 81	partly cloudy
Geneva	17	63	26 79	cloudy
Helsinki	10	50	15 63	cloudy
Hong Kong	27	81	32 90	cloudy
Jakarta	26	81	26 79	clear
London	10	51	23 73	clear
Los Angeles	18	61	24 75	clear
Madrid	18	61	24 75	clear
Moscow	14	57	29 84	clear
Mumbai	17	63	29 88	clear
New York	18	61	29 84	clear
Paris	15	59	29 77	clear
Rome	18	61	29 84	clear
Sydney	10	51	23 73	clear
Tokyo	17	63	29 88	clear
Toronto	15	59	29 77	clear
Vancouver	13	57	24 75	partly cloudy
Zurich	14	57	24 75	partly cloudy



Fifth Element
Models dressed in costumes based on the film 'The Fifth Element' open the Jerusalem Film Festival with a fashion show on Friday. (Brian Heller)

Klingberg reappeals for parole

Marcus Klingberg, serving a 20-year jail sentence for spying, appealed - for the fifth time - for an early release from prison on Friday in Beersheba District Court.

Klingberg, 78, who based his appeal on his advanced age and deteriorating health, was convicted in 1983 of giving information about biological warfare to the Russians, while serving as deputy head of the Biological Institute at Ness Ziona.

"All that I want," said Klingberg, who has had several strokes and been hospitalized half a dozen times in the past few months, "is to be given the chance to die in my home, in my bed, in the company of my friends and loved ones."

"Were I given the opportunity, I would repair the damage I caused."



Marcus Klingberg (Brian Heller)

But I am aware that it is impossible to fix the past," Klingberg told the court. "I already have paid more than enough for the crime I committed..."

Prof blocks Iran hosting UN parley

By Jerusalem Post Staff

A Hebrew University professor recently succeeded in preventing a United Nations conference from being convened in Iran.

Naftali Kadmon, professor emeritus of geography, was to attend the Seventh International Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, to be held in September in Teheran.

Kadmon, who heads the Eastern Mediterranean Other Than Arabic Division of the conference, and chairs its Working Group on Terminology, demanded assurances from the UN Secretariat that there would be no interference by Iran with the entry or departure of any delegate. When these were not forthcoming, Kadmon asked the conference executive to move the conference to a neutral country.

In addition to the issue of security for Israeli delegates, Kadmon also raised the question of limitations on dress and the free movement of women delegates - an issue that delegates from Western countries from attending the conference in Teheran.

Kadmon received assurances the US and Norway would not attend the conference, but received no public support for his motion from the executive. To his pleasant surprise, however, he was recently notified by the UN Secretariat that the conference would be held in New York in January 1998.

This was not his first success against Iran. Ten years ago, when Iran successfully lobbied to have Israel removed from its UN names group, Kadmon won the creation of his new division just for Israel.

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Music Director: Zubin Mehta

Zubin Mehta, conductor

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Ugo Benelli, tenor
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Tuesday, 22.7.97, 20:30 Haifa, Haifa Aud. concert 10, series C
Wednesday, 23.7.97, 20:30 T-A, Mann Aud. concert 11, series A
In memory of those killed at the Israeli Embassy and the AMIA Building in Buenos Aires, Argentina
Thursday, 24.7.97, 20:30 T-A, Mann Aud. concert 11, series B
Saturday, 26.7.97, 21:00 T-A, Mann Aud. concert 11, series C
Sunday, 27.7.97, 20:30 T-A, Mann Aud. concert 11, series E
Monday, 28.7.97, 20:30 T-A, Mann Aud. concert 11, series F
Tuesday, 29.7.97, 20:00 T-A, Mann Aud. concert 6, Light Classical Music

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LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

Classical Libi 50 - In Harmony

In January 1998, to mark the 50th anniversary of Israel's independence, the Classical Libi Group will issue a CD of fine classical music. The proceeds will be devoted in their entirety to the Libi Fund.

The CD will be recorded by the Chamber Orchestra of the Education Corps and Gadna, conducted by Menahem Neberhaus, at the Jerusalem Music Center at Mishkenot Sha'ananim. It will include works by Mendelssohn, Mozart, Elgar and Zohavi. The soloist will be the pianist Semyon Krucio.

The CD is sponsored by the organization arranging the 50th anniversary celebrations, which are to be launched at a gala event at the Tel Aviv Museum in January 1998.

Conceived by Zahavit Dotan and Helen Saguy, the CD project will be produced by Helen Saguy and Nili Armoni, who have volunteered their services.

The name, "50 in Harmony," proposed by Tirza Granot, was chosen to express the desire for harmony in Israeli life.

The price of the CD will be NIS 50, which will be a donation to the Libi Fund.

A beautiful souvenir to commemorate 50 years of the State of Israel.

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the book department

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